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VOLUME 29, NO. 7 | FREE | JAN. 29, 1999

Paul Stewart puts up a shot while Knights' teammates Steve Boyle (45) and Aaron Paisley (33) look for a rebound.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

See story on page 22

Two thefts reported

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Two Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) projection units have been stolen from Niagara College in the past two months.

The first unit, worth $8,000, was taken from the Secord Room at the Welland campus some time between Nov. 13-16, 1998, said Rick Demers, supervisor, health and safety and security.

"We figure it was probably taken the morning of the 16th between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. before the classroom started to fill."

He explained that since they can't open every door at the same time, they start to unlock and prepare for the day at 6:30 a.m.

The unit, a Panasonic PKL 5924 LCD Data Projector, was cabled to a cart which itself was chained down. Demers said they used bolt cutters to remove the unit.

The second unit, worth $7,000, was stolen from Lundy 17 sometime after 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 20. This unit was a Sharpe 690 LCD Projector.

Demers said that since this was "theft over $1,000," it was reported to the police and they asked them to include it in Crime Stoppers.

He said these thefts precipitated a review of what the college has been purchasing as far as equipment goes.

Demers said the college has been buying "so many different types of technological equipment at such a rate that we need to get a handle on exactly what the college owns."

He said this includes taking stock of all college equipment.

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Enrolment down 4 per cent

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

A decrease in numbers isn't the end of the world.

Although enrolment for January Start programs at Niagara College has increased from last year, overall enrolment has decreased by four per cent.

Total registration for this year, as of Jan. 19, is 5,030. Last year, registration was 5,241.

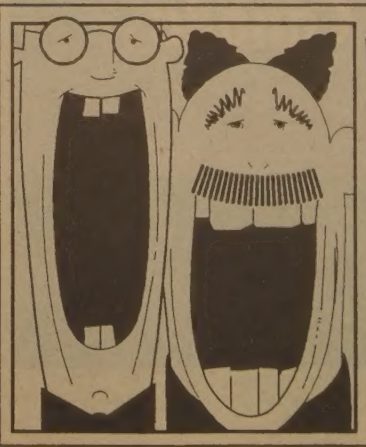
Al Vaughan, Niagara College registrar, says there have always been increases in January Start programs.

He says January Start programs allow "multiple entry points, as well as fast-tracking." They can also save time for some students or allow others to change programs without getting behind.

He says there are a number of reasons why overall enrolment is down.

"We had a planned decrease for

Continued on Page 31



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Eye On Niagara

Internships make students' dreams possible

Internships are providing students with 'tremendous opportunities'

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

For public relations student Stacey Brockhoff, 21, her internship with the Hamilton Bulldogs is one step closer to her dream of working for the Edmonton Oilers' organization.

"I grew up in a very hockey-oriented family, and I've been an Oilers fan my whole life."

She says the Bulldogs are a farm team for the Edmonton Oilers so it "seems like a good place to start."

Brockhoff, of Edberg, Alta., is one of 36 students enrolled in Niagara College's one-year Public Relations (Post-Graduate) program who will be starting 10-week mandatory internships in January 1999.

Alison Burgoyne, the public relations program's internship development officer, assesses the abilities and skills of the students before she partners them with private or community organizations.

"I think I have the best job in the college," she said. "I go out and try to make (students') dreams come true."

Carm Ciardullo, 23, of Hamilton, came to the program after graduating with an honours bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. She said she had taken a public relations course at Ryerson and "really liked" it.

"I found it was probably geared more to my personality than journalism, and I liked the job opportunities."

Mary Cochrane (left), Carm Ciardullo and Charlotte Hodgson are thumbs up over their various internships arranged by the college's Public Relations (Post-Graduate) program.
Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

The advantage is students are sometimes hired after the internship.

She said she came to the college because of the internship. "I wanted to try to get into MuchMusic. I've wanted to work there for a long, long time." Starting in January, she has an internship there. "I can't wait."

Burgoyne said the internships officially begin on Jan. 18 and run to March 29. Students work for the organizations for 19 days. They attend college classes for three days of the week and intern Mondays and Fridays for almost 10 weeks.

Some students have already begun to get involved with the organization with which they will do their internship.

Mary Cochrane, 24, of St. Catharines, says she was asked to attend a press conference for Estée Lauder recently, "even though my internship doesn't start until January . . . It was phenomenal."

She said it was "interesting" because in addition to newspaper reporters, there were "a lot of editors from fashion magazines" at the event.

Although Cochrane said she originally wanted to work with the St. Catharines Downtown Association, when the Estée Lauder position was offered to her she "jumped at the chance."

Estée Lauder is an international cosmetic company. Cochrane said she'll be supervised by the woman in charge of public relations for Estée Lauder in Toronto. "It will be a great experience."

This is the second year the internship component has been part of the public relations program.

Burgoyne said many of the internships are a result of "cold calls" by her.

'I think I have the best job in the college. I go out and try to make (students') dreams come true."
— Alison Burgoyne

Students then go with Burgoyne for an interview where "we talk about the responsibilities." Employers are sent an information package prior to the meeting and an agreement is signed between the student, the employer and the college.

"Everyone remains focused on *the objectives of the internship at* this point and we outline those responsibilities. They are always public relations focused."

Burgoyne said she was "very pleasantly surprised to see that the Toronto market was very willing to accept our students because we are somewhat in competition with Sheridan and Humber colleges."

Tori Reep, 23, of St. Catharines, will be travelling to the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto. With a university degree in European studies and history, Reep said she thinks her partnership with the art gallery is a "good fit."

As well, she said she thinks she'll gain a lot of media experience in a "prominent organization," that has "such high regard in the artistic community."

Burgoyne said it's a "win-win situation for everyone." She says the students are "extremely excited about the hands-on practical work," and employers are eager to accept the students.

The advantage is students are sometimes asked to stay on after the internship. Burgoyne said three of last year's students were hired by the companies for which they interned, "which for the first year, I think, is a good statistic."

Charlotte Hodgson, 26, of Niagara Falls, who wants to get a job shortly after graduating, hopes the same will happen to her. She will be interning at Inniskillin Wines and said it'd be "nice to get into Inniskillin because I really like the product."

Burgoyne said the program's long-term goal is that employers will call the college when they have openings for students.

"Students are being provided with tremendous opportunities."

Purchase bricks for The Next Century Walkway

With the donation of $100 or more, The World May Forget Your Face . . . They Won't Forget Your Brick

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Niagara College's brick campaign is off to a healthy start for 1999.

About $5,000 has been raised, says Liz Palmieri, development associate for the Niagara College Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the college.

"A whole variety of companies, individuals, retirees and government organizations are buying them."

Bricks have been purchased as Christmas gifts, in memory of a loved one, in honour of a favorite teacher, on behalf of a graduating class and as gifts for donor's children and grandchildren, says Palmieri.

The brick campaign was unofficially launched in 1997 alongside the college's $6 million capital campaign. However, the foundation waited until the official opening of the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake in October 1998 to kick-start its brick-selling drive with the slogan The World May Forget Your Face . . . They Won't Forget Your Brick.

With the donation of $100 or more, donors will get a "personally engraved interlocking paving stone" installed in the Niagara: The Next Century Walkways that will be incorporated into the landscaping at the Glendale campus and the Welland campus, says Palmieri.

Donors may have their brick inscribed with up to three lines of text and can decide in which campus walkway they would like to have their brick placed.

Brick gift certificates are available, and there are a variety of payment options available.

To order a brick, call Palmieri at 641-2252, ext. 4103.

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Health Issues

Don't let Jack Frost nip your nose

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Winter can be a fun wonderland, but it can also be dangerous to one's health.

Mother Nature has thrust us into a severely cold winter. The bitterness of potential frostbite lingers in the air, waiting to claim victims.

Cold, blustery winds put everyone at risk. However, people in poor health, the elderly and children are especially vulnerable to varying degrees of frostbite. Unprotected ears, cheeks, fingers and toes are especially sensitive to Old Man Winter's icy touch.

Niagara College's school nurse, Carolyn Hurst, said the first stages of frostbite, called chilblain, are occuring when you see someone who has red ears, or red blotches on the skin tissue that gradually turn really pale.

A mother's motto for her children during the winter could be "Be Layered, Be Layered, Be Layered." Infants don't have fully developed inner thermometers, said Hurst, which makes it extremely important they be protected and bundled.

Aside from keeping all body parts covered, Hurst advises "the best protection against the cold is layering (clothing)."

Frostnip, a mild case of frostbite, involves skin tissues becoming numb, accompanied by prickling or itchy sensations. As the skin endures further exposure to the cold, the severity of the injury increases, going deeper into the skin tissues. The affected area may lose its elasticity, turn white or yellow and may also become immobile.

Rewarming the body tissues doesn't require intense heat. In Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment, the warning reads, "DO NOT RUB." Do not submerge the frozen area in hot water either; it burns the tissues.

Hurst sighed and said, "The number of times I've seen people go and put their hands under hot water . . . It's just not good."

Dry heat isn't recommended either. To properly rewarm frostbitten skin it's ideal wet clothing be replaced with dry, warm garments and blankets be wrapped around the shaking body. If it's desirable to be submerged in water, the temperature shouldn't be more than 40 to 42 Celsius.

Victims of severe frostbite should be under a professional's care so the wounded areas may be treated properly.

Hurst adamantly warns of the further dangers alcohol, coffee and other caffinated drinks contribute to the risk of frostbite. Alcohol dulls the senses, resulting in someone under the influence not being aware of how cold his or her body is becoming.

Frostbite attacks quickly. Uncovered ears and hands may show signs of chilblain, the first indication of over-exposure to the cold, in the time it takes to walk from Niagara College's Woodlawn Road campus to the Seaway Mall on Ontario Street in Welland.

Don't let the winter weather freeze you. The Diagnosis and Treatment Guide advises "keep warm, keep moving, and keep dry."

New laser speeds recovery time

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

Welland County General Hospital's new laser to destroy urinary tract stones will eliminate the need for Niagara residents to travel to Toronto or London for treatment.

'We wouldn't be able to purchase a laser without community support through donations.' — Tom Song

The Holmium Yag Laser costs just over $100,000, but needs a lot of other instruments, said Welland urologist Dr. Tom Song.

"The Holmium laser will increase the number of short stay procedures currently being performed at our hospital," said Song. "It will increase the service and enhance the health care we provide to our patients and will further enhance our reputation as a regional centre of excellence in urological care."

Until now, patients with urinary tract and kidney stones were treated with shockwave treatments in London or Toronto. The medical problems sometimes require repeat treatments, which may cause tissue damage.

"Having a Holmium Yag Laser at Welland (County General) Hospital means we can provide enhanced health care to our community and region," Song said.

Welland Hospital Foundation's Partners for Health campaign, which has a $5.7-million goal, has raised about $2.6 million, and some of these funds are going for a laser, said Marjory Adkin-Wilson, communications co-ordinator.

"We wouldn't be able to purchase a laser without community support through donations," said Song.

Adkin-Wilson said it may be that Hamilton patients will come to Welland's hospital too, because Toronto hospitals' waiting lists are much longer.

She said the hospital plans to educate urologists around the region who will come in and be trained on the laser equipment.

Song said because there is such a high degree of co-operation among the region's urologists, "we've been able to offer this as a regional service."

Laser treatment uses a wavelength and energy system called laser lithotripsy and will eliminate stones in one definitive treatment. Accompanying the laser, which disintegrates stones causing the blockage, are laser fibre-optics which can go to all areas of the urinary tract including the kidney, said Adkin-Wilson.

Welland County General Hospital is one of seven Ontario hospitals with laser equipment, said Song.

Our skin needs light in fight against SAD

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Sunshine can make the difference.

Shedding some light into your life can be the difference between the winter blahs and full blown depression.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) affects more people than most realize.

"SAD is a dysfunction of the circadian rhythms in our body that occurs more commonly in the winter," says Carolyn Hurst, Niagara College's health nurse at the Welland campus.

It's believed to be due to decreases in exposure to what scientists call "full-spectrum light."

Light produces vitamin D in the body, a natural vitamin the body needs. D is now added to milk products because of its importance to the body.

"Our bodies are made so we need some kind of light on the surface of the skin for at least 20 minutes a day," says Hurst.

SAD is more prevalent in northern countries because of the long winters in those areas.

A study by the University of British Columbia (UBC) shows that in Florida less than one per cent of the general population suffers from SAD, but in Alaska as much as 10 per cent of the population suffers from it.

"We, in the north, tend to be a little more low key, not as spontaneous and prone to depression," says Hurst.

SAD symptoms include extreme fatigue and lack of energy, increased need for sleep, carbohydrate cravings, increased appetite and even weight gain.

Fortunately, there are treatments available for those suffering from SAD. The disorder can improve with exposure to bright artificial light called light therapy or phototherapy. This kind of therapy can result in significant improvement. The same UBC study shows the improvement occurs in 60 to 80 per cent of patients.

SAD can also be treated with drugs but light therapy is preferred.

If you suspect you suffer from SAD, or someone you know may, see your doctor or talk to Hurst in the Health Centre located in the Lundy building.

Fun in the snow

Jumping in the snow is Jovan Zubic, of Niagara Falls. Zubic is taking advantage of our latest snowfall.

Photo by Sanja Novakovic

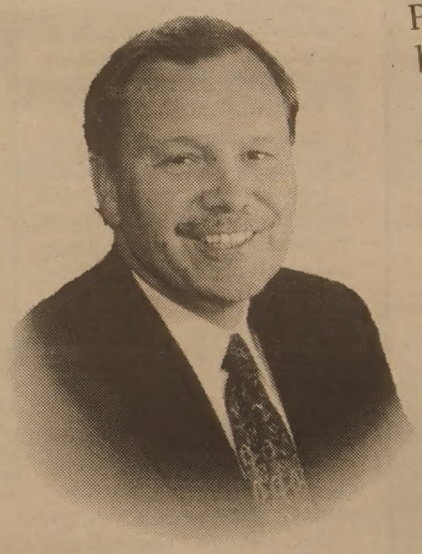
Open Letter to Our Students

Office of the President

I would like to invite your participation in a very important survey which will be conducted during the week of February 1-5, 1999.

The **Student Satisfaction Survey** will be administered by student representatives in one of your classes during this week. All full time students, with the exception of those in Term 1, will be asked to complete a 20-30 minute survey. The survey will ask you questions about your satisfaction with your educational experience at Niagara College. It is completely confidential.

The Student Satisfaction Survey is part of a series of five Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which all Ontario colleges are implementing. Results from the surveys of our current students, graduates, and employers will help colleges build on our successes and make improvements where necessary. Ultimately, a percentage of our provincial funding will depend on our performance as measured by these KPIs.



Please help us to make Niagara College the best it can be for you, our students. Your responses to the Student Satisfaction Survey are very important to us.

Thank you for taking part.

Sincerely,

Dan Patterson
President

STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY
February 1-5, 1999

International

Global citizen bringsexperiences to post

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

His energy and efforts to make Niagara College internationalized come from a variety of experiences.

After having had an opportunity to travel South Africa, Jos Nolle said he "got interested in travelling" because he "wanted to experience the different parts of the world."

Nolle, 42, of Welland, is director of the college's International Education Department.

Born in Holland, he received his masters of art degree in industrial design engineering in Holland.

"I travelled Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, India, Indonesia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, and worked in Australia for a few months. I travelled all the time even while I was working."

According to Nolle, a big change in his life was working in a medical development organization in such needy countries as Afghanistan, Mozambique and Rwanda.

"The organization made a medical team to support and rebuild the devastated situation in Mozambique," said Nolle, adding there had been a decade-long war at the time.

Asked how many languages he can speak, he said, "I can speak Dutch, English, German, French, Spanish and Portuguese. I could learn those languages because I travelled a lot."

During travelling, he said he met Mary, his wife, but it took them about eight years to marry and settle in Canada.

"I have been living in Canada since 1990. To a certain extent, I miss my family, who are in Holland, and my old friends."

There are a lot of differences between Holland and Canada, said Nolle.

"Holland is a very old country, so there are lots of traditions, and religion plays little role in the society, while Canadians need to have a religion to rely on because it's a young country."

Being a landed immigrant, he doesn't have a Canadian citizenship because Holland doesn't allow dual citizenship, he said.

"I didn't want to give up holding my Dutch passport. Consequently,

JOS NOLLE

the only thing that I'm not allowed to do here is voting in any political elections."

He said he plays soccer or runs during his spare time.

"Sometimes I do marathon for fund-raising. In addition, probably I'm getting into hockey because Mark (my son) is very enthusiastic about it."

Nolle said he does volunteer work as a board director of a medical organization in Toronto for helping street children.

> ***'I'm a global citizen. I could live anywhere because the world is always interesting to me.'***
>
> ***—Jos Nolle***

"I also spend some time as a member of the Rotary Club fund-raising for handicapped children."

As a director of the International Education Department at the college, he outlined his job briefly.

"My job consists of four major components: attracting international students, managing English as a Second Language program, implementing international projects and internationalizing the college by bringing international experiences for Canadian students."

Although he's satisfied with his job, he mentioned there are some difficulties carrying out some projects.

"The biggest difficulty is ignorance, which is not negative but something that people don't know about. Canada had not promoted itself around the world until the last 10 years."

He indicated "for Canadians, they are lacking in efforts to know about the rest of the world internationally."

"I'm a global citizen. I could live anywhere because the world is always interesting to me."

World traveller teaches ESL

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Thirteen years at Niagara College and "it's still just as satisfying."

Mary-Lou Eden has been an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher since 1989 and taught English at the college for three years prior.

Eden teaches Level 3 grammar, Level 3 academic research essay, and Level 2 grammar.

"(It's) satisfying to help even a little bit."

Eden's teaching ESL came about "accidentally," she said, adding she was "very happy" teaching general English.

In 1989, the college asked her to put together a course for those needing to improve their English beyond what regular classes could offer. This was aimed, primarily, at international students.

"I really got into it."

When she taught regular English classes, she said she "quite liked it. I got a better cross-section of kids."

"I miss that."

She said she likes academic counselling the best because "you learn a lot about the students, and their hopes and plans."

Living just outside of Camden,

MARY-LOU EDEN

Ont., she graduated from McMaster University in Hamilton, with an honours degree in English, and earned her teaching certificate from the University of Toronto.

She started teaching in 1963 at high schools in Burlington and Hamilton and did so for five years before taking time off to start a family.

In 1986 Eden returned to teaching, this time at the college level.

Every semester Eden takes 12 students from the program to her home and teaches them how to make bread from "scratch."

The 58-year-old woman has travelled the world: Mexico, the United Kingdom, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France and Holland.

She said in two months she's going to Wales for a vacation.

"(I would) like to stay at a bed and breakfast instead of a hotel," she said. That way she can "practice a bit of their language."

Besides English, Eden can speak German and French, and a bit of Italian.

Eden, who obviously has an interest in languages, owns about 40 various language tapes and booklets.

Away from the classroom, Eden spends her spare time woodworking, singing with Chorus Niagara, formerly known as Niagara Symphony Chorus, and playing with her border collies.

Eden said she works in a "wonderful department."

"(We) act like a family. (There's) no one better than Susan Vandenboom (program co-ordinator)."

The legacy of Eden's teaching ESL continues as her son is an ESL teacher in Ottawa.

ESL planning trips

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program is planning trips for its students.

Susan Vandenboom, program co-ordinator, said, "we haven't nailed down anything, but event planning is under way."

Vandenboom said the first event will probably be a skating trip.

Last semester, the ESL students went on various trips and Vandenboom said the college will occasionally pay part of the expenses if it's "outside of school time."

If not, the students pay transportation and entry costs if applicable.

Vandenboom said the social committee, to which students elect representatives, usually plans the events.

Elections are to take place within the week.

This semester there are about 45 students in the program, some in each of the three levels. The ESL students pay $3,400 tuition a semester.

New countries are constantly developing ties to the college with the latest being Madagascar.

SUSAN VANDENBOOM

"(This is) the very first student from there. It's kind of neat," Vandenboom said.

ESL students should check the bulletin board in the international room for upcoming events.

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International

Director visits ACCC to improve relationship

College confirms relationship with ACCC

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

He has strongly confirmed Niagara College's relationship as a member of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC).

Jos Nolle, 42, of Welland, director of the International Education department, and Alison Ortwein, 26, of St. Catharines, international development officer, visited the ACCC in Ottawa.

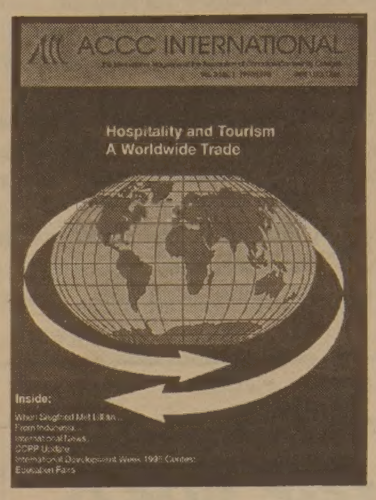
Their visit to the ACCC was to discuss the progress, problems and misunderstandings of international projects Niagara is working for.

During the two-day visit, they met two colleagues from Camosun College in British Columbia on Jan. 11.

On Jan. 12, they had a telephone meeting with a person from Indonesia evaluating the project in Indonesia and talked about the projects related to India and Jordan.

"I found it good to go to the ACCC office in person once or twice a year and talk face to face about the projects that we are implementing," said Nolle.

He added he's been communicating with the organization by phone and e-mail.



Established 25 years ago by a small group of college presidents, the ACCC focused on lifelong learning, access to adult learners and career education in the community.

In addition, it enlarged the nationwide voice of the initial group to a multi-constituency advocacy association.

The ACCC, and many of its member institutions, has offered assistance into the international workplace as well.

"The college has been a member of the ACCC, is still learning and is doing a good job," said Nolle.

Published by the ACCC, *College Canada*, a newsmagazine, provides news updates and information on events related to the organization, four times a year.

The ACCC also publishes the *ACCC INTERNATIONAL*. It provides current information on the ACCC's international activities by highlighting the experiences of colleges and institutions in Canada.

"We receive about $400,000 a year from the ACCC for the international projects," said Nolle.

"The ACCC is like a umbrella organization, which does lobby the government. It's also looking for some colleges that will work for specific projects with money from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)."

Nolle added CIDA is a part of the federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Word on Campus

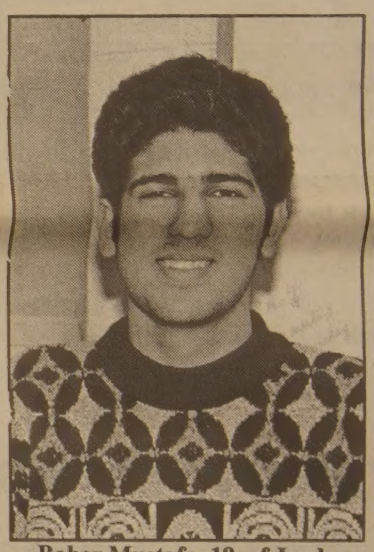
What do you think of all the snow?

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Shino Arakawa, 19, of Japan, said, "I've never seen this much snow in my life."

Natsuko Tamura, 20, of Japan, said, "I like snow, but I'm getting tired of it. I miss summer.

Jo Wang, 28, of Taiwan, said, "It's so exciting but it's cold."



Baher Mustafa, 19, of Jordan, said, "It's nice for me generally because it's new weather."

Emi Yamanashi, 23, of Japan, said, "I've never walked in snow before. I don't like it."

Eternal golden rules

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Hindu Faith

This is the sum of duty: do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.

—The Mahabharata

Buddhist Faith

Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.

— Udana Varga (15:8)

Jewish Faith

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow men. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary.

The Talmud (Shabbat 3'a)

Baha'i Faith

And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for they neighbor that which thou choosest for thyself.

Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 64

Christian Faith

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

The Gospel of Matthew (7:12)

Jainism Faith

Man should subvert anger by forgiveness, subdue pride by modesty, overcome hypocrisy with simplicity, and greed by contentment.

— Samanasuttam 136

Muslim Faith

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. (quoted in *Prophet Muhammad and His Mission*, p. 106)

Hadith of Bukhari

Zoroastrian Faith

Do not unto others all that which is not well for oneself.

Shayast-na Shayast

A hair-raising experience

The St. Catharines Career School of Hairstyling helped third-year film students fund-raise for their upcoming documentaries. The event was held the third week of December.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211 Ext. 7753/ 374-7454/ 641-2252/ 563-3254 FAX (905) 736-6005.

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Hip, hip hurray for NBA

Well, the National Basketball Association (NBA) is back . . . finally.

The league and the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) have reached a deal which will give the fans, those who will actually watch, a short and compressed season.

So, the players wanted more money. Isn't it us, the fans, who are making it possible for them to ask for money? I mean we pay for the tickets and team merchandise. Is it greedy athletes who don't even think about the fans? Or maybe it's the owners of the teams who want more money.

Either way, the 1999 NBA season has been restored, but at what expense? My guess is a lot of fans won't watch games and are disgusted by the players' attitudes.

Now that Michael Jordan is retired for good (we think), what athlete is going to bring back a reason for me to watch?

The long three-pointer to win the game, perhaps when it really counts?

The player who is loving every minute out on the court?

The team that plays like a team?

And last, but not least, the player who plays for the fans or the love of the game and makes it look as if it takes no effort?

The NBA and the NBPA have a lot of work to do to win fans back.

Amy Kaal

Leave rudeness at millennium's door

It's hoped as the millennium comes to an end, so too will people's tendency towards rudeness.

When did society stop valuing the pricelessness of a kind word, a passing smile or a polite act?

It is not so difficult for a person to hold a door open for the person who follows or to say "please" and "thank you," yet fewer and fewer people seem to do so.

These small gestures take very little effort, but in return generate happiness both for the giver and receiver of the act. Kindness inspires kindness.

It's not only that people are no longer polite, but that people are becoming just plain rude.

We've all gone into stores where the clerk gave no greeting or goodbye, but voiced only the price of the purchase. Many of us don't go back. We should refuse to give business to a store which doesn't value our business.

If people would stop taking out their problems on others in the form of rudeness, but instead say a kind word, not only would others be happier but so would they.

Leah Farnan

Let us know your opinion

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is:

1. **All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.**
2. **Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.**
3. **All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.**

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Letter to Editor

Woman on women's lib

Dear Editor:

Re: your staff writer Jeff Bolan's comments on women's lib. (Niagara News, Dec. 11, 1998).

If men had not treated women as non-persons and had been fair-minded in many things towards them, women would not have had to resort to this lib aspect.

To think that men, in high places, would not class women as persons *until the year 1929 is unthinkable* and shows what mad-hatters some men are and have been over the centuries.

If women are not (or were not) persons then pray tell me what was that which came out from her body which they call a child?

Why have men been such gobbly coots for so long?

I realize, and believe and respect, God's order of things regarding the order of things dealing with God. First and foremost, Jesus, His only begotten son; second, Man created by God to be in God's image (which man has horribly failed to achieve), and women, man's co-ed partner, and children who should be brought up in the nurturing and admonishing of the Lord, which is also sadly lacking in our days, due partly to the *extremes that men and women have gone to in the past in this regard.*

The world's societies go from one extreme to another, while God tells us, in His Book, that we must be moderate in all things.

This does not imply that we should be lukewarm where He is concerned. He hates lukewarmness. It means to be temperate not extreme in what we do.

Mrs. Adrienne Mulder
Lowbanks, Ont.

Health care going south

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Ontario cancer patients are going to the United States for treatment and the province (taxpayers) are going to foot the bill. Shame on the province for exploiting the ill this way.

Provincial Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer says it's because we don't have enough skilled technicians to operate the radiation facilities in our hospitals. Are these the same technicians capable of doing the job before the cuts to health care began? Are these the same people who are now out of work because the funding was pulled?

We have the equipment, the facilities, but not enough skilled labour?

Gimme a break! The people responsible for this just never cease to amaze me.

Let me propose a hypothetical situation. Premier Mike Harris borrows millions, maybe billions of dollars from the United States to finance the personal income tax scheme (I love that word — scheme).

The U.S. is envious of our health care coverage (such as it is). They say, "We'll lend you some money if you send us your ill; it's guaranteed income as we send you the bill."

Oh, I know, call it farfetched, paranoid, even beyond the realm of possibility. Remember, it's just a hypothetical situation.

Viewpoints

It's just snow; slow down, deal with it

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Don't rush through the slush

It's Canada, and it's winter, so what's the big surprise?

If you have been driving the local routes the past few weeks you may have noticed an increased number of morons behind the wheels of their cars.

The majority of us grew up in Canada, so you would think we'd be accustomed to winter and the hazards that come with it. After all, it's common sense that ice and snow cause bad driving conditions.

With that in mind. it makes sense drivers should exercise a little more caution when driving on snow-covered roads.

Oh, and by the way a four-wheel-drive doesn't entitle you to go as fast as you can. The extra traction does help, but it doesn't necessarily mean the vehicle is indestructible.

There are certain precautions you can take to improve your chances of avoiding contact with an inanimate object or another vehicle.

A good pair of snow tires will set your bank account back a bit, but so will a good fender bender.

Most people these days are content with all-season tires. However, these are still not as effective as snows.

A few extra pounds of weight in your trunk — if your truck is front-wheel drive — will help to keep you from spinning out. A large bag of cat litter or a few cinder blocks will usually be sufficient.

If road grime and ice are a problem on your windshield, try getting some de-icer washer fluid and a good pair of winter wipes. These can be found at your local Canadian Tire.

For very cold mornings, a block heater will protect against unnecessary wear on the engine during start up. Get either one that plugs into the frost plug. Even a magnetic one will do fine. Neither is very expensive, at around $30 to $40.

Whatever you do, don't rush through the slush. If you have to be somewhere, leave a little earlier to give yourself a little extra time to get where you're going.

Going crazy at home

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

I, personally, would rather live in Florida than deal with this snow. The cold wind, the snow blowing in my face and the ice on the ground aren't my idea of fun. I hate this weather.

The worst part of the last snow storm was not being able to drive. I am not scared to drive with a little bit of snow on the ground, but my parents were nervous, and, since it's their vehicle, I had no choice but to stay at home.

Staying home with no schoo or anywhere close enough tc walk to was horrible. There was nothing to do. The television was entertaining for about two hours. I was going crazy. I would sit in my house, look out the window and just hope the snow would stop.

I had to think of something to keep myself busy. I tried reading, playing games on the computer, talking on the phone, watching television, watching movies and cleaning. I was still miserable and wanted to escape my house — but I lived.

Things are back to normal. School is open again. Driving is fine, and I will be going out a lot now to make up for the lost time.

I wonder what people did years ago without the televisions or computers or telephones. They would have had to find ways to entertain themselves. If we had to live like that now I wonder how many people would go crazy. I know I would.

Happy New Year, give us $

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Going to a club in Toronto may have been a good time had we chosen a club that appreciated its customers.

The Joker, in downtown Toronto, must have made a killing. They charged $42.50 for tickets through TicketMaster or $50 at the door, plus $2.50 a coat checked. The beverages were the same price and they couldn't live up to the free champagne at midnight, which was part of the entrance ticket.

When we entered the club we had to check our coats and since we had all doubled up on coats because of the cold weather, it cost us a small fortune.

I had now spent $70.50 and I was feeling a little taken advantage of.

We celebrated and had a great time

New Year's is a time to celebrate and enjoy oneself, but this New Year's at The Joker was the party from hell.

At the stroke of midnight we celebrated and had a great time but as the party ended and I tried to get our coats, a riot erupted and I was taken out at the ankles.

Two security guards wrestled an enraged man to the floor. Why you might ask? Well, he didn't get his coat, of course.

Many other people were kicked out onto the street without their coats.

I realized they hadn't given me one of my coats I had checked but they wouldn't let anyone back into the club.

I recall seeing a girl in a tank top freezing, begging to be let back in to get her coat. All who were in T-shirts and coats were denied.

People were freezing and the security guards, who were all *bundled up, had no compassion.*

The thing that bothers me the most is the club made an obscene amount of money from us. For the amount of money they brought in from tickets alone everyone could have had a bottle of champagne and free coat check.

That night I lost an $80 coat that belonged to a friend of mine. When I called the next day they told me all of the coats were gone . . . I bet.

They should rename *The Joker* to Pinocchio's Pleasure Island since we went in with false promises and came out looking like asses.

Today's youth don't know 'no'

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

A stern hand and a gentle touch

It's likely you'll hear an adult complain about how today's youth are misbehaved. Often, one might say, "When I was a child, I wouldn't have dreamt of doing that."

The reason adults "wouldn't have dreamt of doing that" is that as children, they feared the repercussions inflicted by their parents.

Today's youth aren't any less willing to listen. Their parents have a slack attitude when it comes to discipline.

What happened to tough love?

Parents don't like to discipline their children. It's much easier to give in to them, let them do what they want and not have to punish them when they misbehave.

It was no easier for parents of prior generations to discipline their children, but most did.

Those parents who never discipline are raising children who haven't learned the difference between right and wrong. How could they when they've never been told no?

This isn't doing them any favours.

It's important to raise children with a stern hand and a gentle touch.

Children must be praised for their accomplishments and deterred from their mistakes.

It's unhealthy for children to receive only one or the other. Those who receive only discouraging words will develop self-esteem problems, yet those who are never discouraged will think they can do no wrong.

The problem with today's youth isn't their lack of respect. It's their lack of being taught it.

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Viewpoints

Expressing your feelings isn't girlish

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is coming, and I have a question for all men. Why do some men, especially those in the 19 to 24 year age range, have such a hard time expressing how they're feeling?

I don't mean feelings such as "I'm tired" or "I'm hungry." What I'm referring to is expressing how they feel about a situation or the person they're dating for that matter.

Don't get me wrong. I know there are a lot of men very adept at expressing their emotions. If there weren't there wouldn't be any successful male authors or poets or romantics. But there is a large sector of the male population who really aren't good at conveying feelings.

Why is that? As children, boys and girls sit through the same English classes. They read the same stories in school and complete the same assignments. Why, then, can most women express themselves so poetically and many men can't?

I think it might be a reflection of what society expects from men versus what it expects from women. A few of my male friends have told me they feel it's "wimpy" or "girlish" to appear sensitive or to express themselves. One or two of them write us mushy love letters but then they beg us not to show the letters to *anyone*.

Women, however, write in diaries, listen to sappy songs and watch "chick flicks." We're expected to be able to express ourselves, to be analytical. And we do it. Look at how long we can spend with a friend analyzing the three words he said to us. How did he say them exactly? What was his facial expression, his tone of voice?

What made me think about this is a man I know. Somewhere along the line, perhaps during childhood, the word "annoyed" was introduced into his vocabulary. Curious, I looked up its meaning in the dictionary. The Webster's definition of annoyed is to "vex, irritate, trouble."

My male acquaintance uses it constantly, at every opportunity whenever he's asked how he feels about a situation. He has various degrees of the word's meaning he uses just to help out whomever he's dating (which isn't me, thank God.)

He has three basic ways to describe his emotional state. He is either "kind of annoyed," "annoyed," or "very annoyed."

He doesn't expand upon these answers. I seriously think that when he marries, his wife will have to make up a little chart and tape it on their fridge. That way, when he awakens every morning he can check off the particular mood he is feeling that day. (Yes, you've got it — "kind of annoyed," "annoyed," "really annoyed.") On the days when he's "very annoyed," he will probably be just too annoyed to check off any of the boxes. Or perhaps the little chart itself will annoy him. I feel very sorry for whoever falls in love and wants to marry him.

There is hope, however. My best friend Cristina's boyfriend is one of the sweetest, most sensitive guys I know. He brings her flowers and writes her beautiful love letters.

Last Valentine's Day he sewed her a teddy bear from scratch. Of course, he can't sew, so it has really longs arms and legs. It doesn't have ears because he couldn't figure out how to sew them on, but the thought was there.

Guys, listen up. So what if you just tape a song that reminds you of us? We don't care if the poem came from a book or if it's the lyrics of a song. We don't expect homemade teddy bears, but if you can do a little better than "I'm kind of annoyed," it would be much appreciated.

Experience a haircut for free

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Just a trim, please.

When I was at the Pen Centre shopping, I walked past L'Attitudes International, a hair salon, that had a sign posted outside reading "models wanted for complimentary cuts."

I was curious, so I walked in and agreed to let someone who needed the experience cut my hair.

I expected to get my hair cut right then, but to my surprise I had to book an appointment Monday at 11:30 a.m.

As I walked out, I was questioning whether or not I should have agreed to this.

I had the whole weekend to think it over and I came to the conclusion — it's only hair.

Sure, I'd like my hair to look nice, but if the person messes up, it'll grow back.

The weekend dragged on, and I looked forward to Monday morning.

As I walked into L'Attitudes that day, someone took my coat and seated me quickly.

A guy named Will asked me how I wanted my hair cut, and then took me to the back to wash my hair.

The shampoo smelled fruity as he massaged it gently into my scalp.

After he took me to my seat, he combed the knots out and began to slowly snip away.

As I watched him in the mirror I saw small pieces of my hair fall to the ground.

After he finished cutting, he brought out his spiral brushes, the only brushes that get caught in my hair.

I was nervous watching him and, just as I expected, the brush got caught not only once, but twice.

As I ground my teeth, he nicely yanked the brush out and tried using a new smaller one.

The blow drying and hair brushing were finally over. Then came the gel and hairspray.

An hour later my hair cut was complete.

The cut was nice, Will got experience and I didn't have to pay a dime!

Best friends, one of life's gifts

Let them know

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Do you have a best friend?

It's likely you do. Perhaps more than one. Do me a favour?

How long have you known them? How many times have they made you smile or laugh?

It's a huge world, and we meet people we become fond of in the oddest places. We do crazy things with them. There are songs, movies and shows that remind us of them. And we have enough memories to last a lifetime.

If you're lucky enough, you're a best friend to someone. There's an unwritten code between best friends to protect each other from pain, share in each other's joy and take whatever else comes into the other's life as if it were happening to you.

They do the same. If we paid them for all the hours they put in with us they'd be living the high life, wouldn't they?

It may even be you are fortunate enough to share the rest of your life with this person, not only as a best friend but as a partner. I hope I am that lucky.

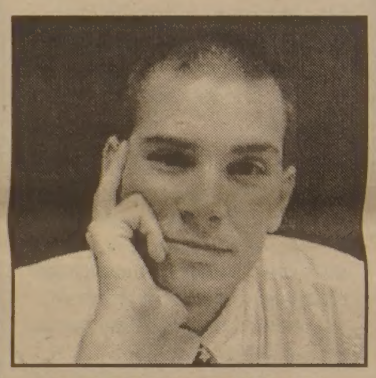
It's a new year. No matter what the separation of time, distance or otherwise, if you do nothing else to start the year off right, please call your best friend(s) and tell them that's what they are to you.

Where would we be without them? Who would we run to and share our lives with? You have to admit there's no one else who understands your life better than they do. Even the Psychic Friends' Network can't come close to what they know about us.

They hold our secrets and dreams. They don't ever confide the first with others or quash the latter. It's a love and understanding unmatched. They are by far one of life's greatest gifts, one that is under-appreciated most of the time.

There are 1,600 kilometres between me and one of my best friends, but he knows everyday he is special to me, as do all my best friends. Make sure yours know it too.

Power of music



By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

Music — our life's blood.

Music has a tremendous impact on our lives as a healer and curer acting as a companion that never leaves our side.

It cures us when we are ill and lifts our spirits when we're down. It affects the deepest emotions, leaving us with tears when we're reminded of a friend taken away too soon. Sounds of classical guitars send shivers down our spine. Music has never failed to strike a chord in our hearts.

Minds fill with memories brought to life through music, telling the story when no one is left to.

We are brought together by it, one world. For a minute it gives us hope this world isn't such a bad place, and our lives are worth holding on to. It inspires us to do things that seem otherwise impossible.

No matter what our taste in music, we all have a song that takes us back to a better time, when nothing else mattered. Maybe it was that first kiss or when we said our last goodbyes. Even the strongest person can't escape the power music has on us echoing in our souls.

When we can no longer speak, music will speak for us. When we can no longer see, music will paint the picture. Music gives us the freedom to express ourselves and let out all our emotions. And when death arrives at our doorstep, music will be our epitaph, telling our story.

Throughout my life music has played an important role. When I was very young, I remember *my grandfather playing his guitar and singing a favourite song* of his. I would sit there for hours and listen to his voice. It wasn't how well he played or the quality of his singing that mattered. It was that he was there.

Christmas brought with it lots of music. Amid the sounds of a crackling fire and many laughing people rose a popular carol.

Now many close friends have been taken away, and family is a thing of the past, but through it all music was there to remind me of those times. My imagination runs wild when I recall all the good times we had.

When my grandfather died he left me his guitar. When I play it I feel as though he's there beside me, coaching me on my technique and shouting out a chorus. At his funeral we played his favourite songs, a way for us to say, "Goodbye, Grandpa."

With him gone I am left with the memories and a song that makes them appear to be reality. The *Leader of the Band* tells a story of a man who was seen as a mentor, again taken away too soon.

The singer sings of trying to live up to his mentor's expectations in life. In death he's forced to continue his legacy.

Word for word this song describes my memories of my mentor. Without the memories and the words to paint the picture, my life would seem empty. I fall to tears when I think of him and listen to that song.

Coldness turns to warmth when put to music. Words can be spoken but music adds the colour that bring them to life.

SAC

Rock search winners perform for Niagara students

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

It's a new year with new events for Niagara College students, sponsored by the Student Administrative Council.

For those who are graduating and want pictures, you have a final chance to get them done until Jan. 29 at the Welland campus. The photographer will be at the Glendale campus from Feb. 2 until Feb. 12 and the Maid of the Mist campus will have their opportunity from Feb. 16 until 18.

Monday Night Raw is already sold out. Students bought all 48 tickets to the Feb. 8 wrestling excursion. Tickets were $30 and were gone by Jan. 12.

Devine Right, opening act for the Tragically Hip, came to After Hours on Thursday Jan. 14, at 12:30 p.m.

Karaoke Night was Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at After Hours.

At noon on Jan. 21 at the Pub, Hennessey performed. They were the winners of Canada Campus Rock Search. The band also performed at Glendale on Jan. 20.

Also that night, it was the Great Canadian Cabin Party Pub Night. Cash prizes went to the best-looking lumberjack.

On Jan. 27, at Comedy Night, the Alberta Beef Tour awarded a free Alberta beef dinner to one person. It was served at the winner's table in the pub.

On Thursday, Sarah Harmer, the lead singer of Weeping Tile, performed at the pub.

Glendale campus had a Yuk Yuk's comedian perform at Alexander Davidson's, on Jan. 12.

$50K left in the pot

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Since last April, Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) has spent $650,000 of its $700,000 budget, says Cindy Blanchard, SAC's financial administrator.

SAC's major goal was to bus people in and work together to implement ideas that are "good for all students" at all three campuses (in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls), she says.

Some of SAC's major expenses are promotional items, leases for Xerox machines, insurance for the SAC office and peer tutoring.

The most expensive event held was the athletic varsity and intramural games, says Blanchard. Some of the other expensive events are entertainment, the student graduation book, different excursions and special events.

She says there are administrative expenses, such as salaries, building repairs, the costs of running the office and donations.

Blanchard says the budget is always based on last year's figures. The incoming SAC decides where to decrease or increase spending depending on the new budget.

Every year on April 1, SAC receives $132 from each registered student. It receives revenues from the photocopy machines and the arcade games in the After Hours Pub at the Welland campus. This money is supposed to last until March 31 of the next year.

Blanchard says all the money goes into an account opened by Niagara College, from which she can withdraw the necessary money, through the college, as needed.

Some of the money goes directly into global expenses, such as auditors fees. The rest of the money is divided three ways, according to the number of students enrolled at each of Niagara's campuses, says Blanchard.

The Welland campus is allowed to spend half of the money. Of the remaining funds, one-quarter is allotted to the Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, and three-quarters to the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

If there's any money left over at the end of SAC's term, it goes into a surplus account, which accumulates over the years and will be used if an unexpected large expense arises, such as building repairs, says Blanchard. It's like a "nest egg" or a "cushion."

SAC used $155,000 of this money to get the new SAC offices at the Maid of the Mist Centre and at the Glendale campus ready.

Blanchard says it was "really good we had a nice surplus" so they didn't have to minimize how much they spent on things like promotional items and special events during the year.

Unhappy with student council, got involved

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

It's hard work being a member of Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC).

Michael Chorney, SAC vice-president of campus events at the Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC) in Niagara Falls, says he's up for the challenge.

"Our student council last year was lackluster," says Chorney, 20, a second-year student in the Tourism (Co-op) program. "They tried doing stuff and it didn't work. They were in disarray and there was bickering amongst them."

Chorney says he decided he wanted to become a member of SAC because he wasn't happy with what was happening.

"I thought I could do a better job. It gets to the point where you can do a better job so you have to get in there and do it."

Chorney says despite his interest in becoming a SAC member, he had no previous experience in student politics.

"The only experience I've ever had in authority is as a fastball umpire," he says. "I took a couple of high school courses in politics. That's my background."

Chorney's duties include working on "most of the internal stuff, but I (also) book some of the outside excursions. I worked on Alcohol Awareness Week and I (helped) Kevin Fochuk (vice-president of campus affairs for the MMC) with Food For Friends."

Chorney says, "A lot of the students don't know their rights. I feel, as student council, we should tell them what their rights are. Many of the students will just grin-and-bear (a bad grade) rather than trying to appeal it. If students know that option's available, they might use it."

Chorney says he's unsure of what the future holds for him after he graduates in April.

"I really don't know. I live one day at a time. If I find my diploma doesn't get me very far, I'm sure coming back. I'll try something else."

As for being a SAC representative if he returns, Chorney says "definitely. You're not just a student, you're making decisions for the students. That's really rewarding for me."

"I don't care if you like me, I don't care if you hate me. I just want to know I was respected for what I did and how I did it."

Niagara's campuses have 'come a long way,' says Blanchard

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Cindy Blanchard says this year's Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) is "great. They are working really hard to make the new SAC structure work and it is working."

The SACs at "all three campuses are close." The Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, and the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, have never been structured before, says Blanchard, and "they've come a long way."

Chris Williams, the new SAC office manager for the Glendale and Maid of the Mist campuses, is "such an asset. Sometimes I even call her to ask her a question," says Blanchard.

Blanchard, the finance administrator for Niagara's SAC and the office manager for Welland's SAC, says the hardest part of her job is "working with interruptions." The best part of her job is "working with the students. They're awesome."

CINDY BLANCHARD

This is Blanchard's eighth year at Niagara College. The "biggest" part of her job is tracking the finances for SAC and the student centres, she says.

During the year she becomes close to the SAC representatives, says Blanchard, and at the end of the year she "definitely misses them."

She stays in contact with some of them by e-mail and phone calls and has been invited to important events such as weddings and baby showers.

It is "great" to see a representative come back to SAC for more than one year, says Blanchard. They are an "asset" because "they know a lot of the job."

It is "hard in September" to help the new SAC representatives and show them where to start because she is busy dealing with students at the front desk, says Blanchard.

There is an orientation in May to show the new representatives what to do but it is different when they actually try to do it. Blanchard says they will always have questions.

She works about 40 hours a week at Niagara College and does "a lot" of work at home. When she starts working on things, such as the graduation book, it takes another 40 to 60 hours a week of work at home, she says. To compensate her for the hours at home, SAC gives her extra time off in the summer.

She says she does work at home during the SAC office's peak period because she doesn't have time during her office hours.

At home, she has two children, Alexandria, 13, and Curtis, 11.

Blanchard says she started at Niagara as a part-time bookkeeper. In 1991 when the student centre opened it became busier with a bigger office and SAC needed her for full-time hours.

Before Niagara, she worked as a casual relief secretary at the separate school boards. She would go to different schools to relieve secretaries when someone was sick or needed a vacation.

Politics

NDP leader speaks against Harris's plans

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

TORONTO — Provincial New Democrat Party (NDP) leader Howard Hampton says the current government "is a government that believes in propaganda, propaganda, propaganda."

The commercials flooding Canadian television channels invite American business to invest in Ontario. Premier Mike Harris speaks of better education and healthier people in Ontario. He praises the quality of life all Ontarians enjoy.

"It's pretty clear what those commercials are all about. Those commercials are about Mike Harris."

Hampton says the NDP has made it clear that what the Harris government has done is to take over a billion dollars out of health care and over a billion dollars out of education, and they're downloading close to a billion dollars in costs onto municipalities to finance the Harris 30 per cent income tax scheme. They've also had to go out and borrow money to finance that tax cut.

"If the Harris government had not proceeded, if they hadn't implemented this 30 per cent income tax scheme, the budget would have been balanced at least a year ago, probably two years ago, and we would not have had the very destructive cuts to health care, education and to our communitites."

Hampton says people need to look at who has benefited from the income tax scheme.

"The vast majority of middle and modest income families haven't because they get so little out of the income tax scheme and on the other hand they're getting hit with increases in tuition fees, higher property taxes, all kinds of new user fees and it's middle and modest income families that get hurt the most when healthcare is cut and education is cut."

He says the only people in Ontario who have benefited are those who are already well off.

"Does any of this make sense? Does it make sense to cut health and education in our communities in order to give more wealth to those people in Ontario who are already wealthy? It doesn't."

The New Democrats, says Hampton, are "very clear" about what should be done.

"We believe that we should roll back the Harris income tax scheme for the highest income people in the province. That would give us one and a half billion dollars a year to put back into health (and) education, where it would do the most good for the most people."

HOWARD HAMPTON

He says "most" people, when you show them what's really going on, do agree.

Hampton will visit about 20 communities in the province "to show people what is actually happening" in health care. He will also be visiting colleges and universities near the end of the college year.

"We live now in an economy, the knowledge economy. The important element of this economy is having thoughtful, intelligent, educated, capable people. You don't grow thoughtful intelligent people on trees. You don't hide them under rocks. You develop the knowledge, the skills, the capacity of your people by investing in education."

He says Harris's government is cutting investment in education.

"The main difference between us and the Liberals is the Liberals complain about Harris's cuts to education and health care and they complain his income tax scheme is taking money out of those things, but when you put the question to them, 'What would you do about this?,' they would do the same thing Harris has done."

He says they (Liberals) have basically said they would continue, that they endorse and they would continue Harris's income tax scheme, knowing it's taking a billion a year out of health and education.

"I think the only people prepared to make a change here are the New Democrats."

He says what's happening with the hospital closures is the Harris government is creating some real gaps in health care. Taxpayers have to look at the Hotel Dieu (in St. Catharines) and say, "Look, these are the services that are available at the Hotel Dieu that aren't available anywhere else." These services have to be restored.

Hampton wants to know where those services are going to go or where they are going to be recreated.

He says Mike Harris is trying to put a brand name on the Liberals and the New Democrats.

"He's saying that the Liberals don't have any plan, and then he says the NDP has a plan, but the NDP plan is to raise your taxes, which is not true," says Hampton.

"What I said is that the Harris income tax scheme only benefits people who are well off (and) doesn't benefit anybody else. Everybody has a responsibility to support health care and education and for those very wealthy people, we would roll back the Harris income tax scheme and put the money back into health care and education where it should have in the first place."

Hampton will be in the Niagara Region in mid-February.

Port Colborne's economy gaining strength

Mayor credits developments to a number of factors

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

PORT COLBORNE — The Niagara region's economic situation is different now from what it was in the early 1990s.

Recession has been replaced by growth. As a result, unemployment is declining.

In Port Colborne, according to the 1998 Year in Review memo by Mayor Vance Badawey, the city is realizing its economic potential and has, during the year, laid groundwork for future developments.

The five-page report highlights what the mayor says are the city's 1998 economic accomplishments that will "spill" into 1999 and beyond.

Speaking from City Hall at 66 Charlotte St., Badawey says the municipality is doing well, given developments such as last year being the city's busiest construction period this decade.

"We're doing a job this community expects and wants to see in the future," he says. "We would like to stimulate growth and enhance the quality of living."

The developments, he says, resulted from the commercial, industrial, residential and tourism permits worth about $15 million the city issued last year.

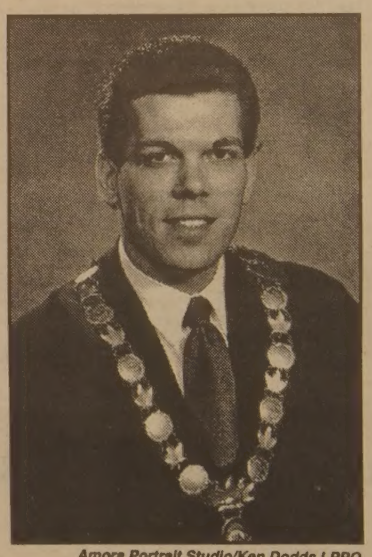
These include a new Harvey's/Swiss Chalet on Main Street West and a new Tim Hortons on Main Street East.

There's a 50-unit addition to the Portal Village Retirement Home on Elgin Street and a new church within the Portal Village complex.

Also, he says the city is continuing the housing incentive program to "stimulate" further housing construction.

The industrial and tourism sectors had growth, too.

A green light has been given, he says, for an addition to Port Colborne Poultry and for the construction of 31 new Park Model Homes within the Sherkston complex.



Amora Portrait Studio/Ken Dodds LPPO

VANCE BADAWEY

In addition, infrastructure improvements that include pumping stations as part of sewer treatment and a collection system for Sherkston Resorts are ongoing.

The mayor credits the developments to a number of factors.

First, he says the community's involvement in the growth-generating process and the city government's teamwork paid dividends.

"When we do things together we all benefit. Port Colborne is a place not only to visit and do business but to live."

Second, he says the trend of industries returning to smaller cities, attracted by the quality of living, bodes well for the municipality.

A historic and culturally vibrant city, Port Colborne was founded by the 1812 war-hero, William Hamilton Merritt. It was settled in 1829 and named after Sir John Colborne, the then Governor-General of Upper Canada.

Today, the city has a population of about 19,000 and its own railway to service its light industry, commerce and about 90 farms around it.

According to Badawey, tourism is becoming Port Colborne's "major" priority.

Therefore, a pilot project is to be instituted "to see if the city needs transit."

This spring, he says, will see the construction of a multi-use trail, an extension of the Welland Canal parkway system to run between Marina Drive, the historic West Street and Niagara South Rowing Club.

"Port Colborne is a major player in partnership with other municipalities to enhance tourism."

Tourists are attracted and kept, he says, by affording them a reason to return.

A former city councillor, Badawey represented Ward 4 from 1994 until his election as mayor in 1997. He is also a Niagara Region councillor and serves on a number of committees and community groups.

He says he intends to stand for re-election in the year 2000, given there are other "big projects to tackle."

"Taxes haven't gone up in eight years. We have the ability to do capital projects and improve infrastructure without raising any."

In 1999, he says Port Colborne citizens can look forward to growth and to what the city government has been talking about in the past.

St. Catharines MPP criticizes Liberal policies

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Conservative MPP (member of the provincial parliament) Tom Froese says the Liberals have pulled numbers out of the air. He asks if they have a crystal ball.

Asked what he thought of Liberal Finance Critic Gerry Phillips' *Treasury Watch* document, he says, "Phillips is pulling numbers out and making his own opinions about what he thinks we're doing."

Froese says Phillips got numbers out of the budget book, but he's making his own numbers. They're not government document figures.

"I really can't comment. I don't know where he's getting his figures and they're probably not the right figures. I'm not sure that the $220 million or $206 million is a correct figure, so he's doing his job . . . being critical of the government."

Asked about the slush fund, he says, "There is no slush fund . . . it's in the budget. All the numbers are accounted for.

"If he's (Phillips) saying the restructuring fund is a slush fund, well, they can say anything that they want."

Froese says the restructuring fund has to with other items. "Like, we have reduced the civil service. There's no doubt about it."

He adds that's what "we said we would do and there are costs associated with that like early buyouts and pension plans."

He says those moneys are earmarked and accounted for.

"I don't know if he's got a crystal ball where he sees we're going to balance the budget in the spring. We've clearly said all along that

Continued on Page 31

Politics

Provincial Tories manipulating 'slush fund'

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

TORONTO — Provincial Liberals are saying the Harris government can present a balanced budget this spring.

Gerry Phillips, Liberal member of provincial parliament and finance critic, says in the November issue of *Treasury Watch* Premier Mike Harris's government will present "balanced budget" legislation in the spring.

Phillips says Harris will have a $1 billion surplus of revenue over base expenses in 1999/2000 to allocate towards strengthening programs, reducing the debt or implementing tax cuts. The Liberals expect Harris will announce more tax cuts in the March or April budget in advance of a likely June 1999 election.

The Harris government announced a revised 1998/99 budget last November. Forecast revenues are conservatively stated so the final deficit for 1998/99 should be substantially lower.

The "real" expenditure of the province in 1998/99 is about $55 billion. Phillips says to get an accurate view of the real annual provincial expenditures it is necessary to eliminate about $2 billion local service cost temporarily on the provincial books awaiting transfer to municipalities.

In addition, the province expensed $590 million of restructuring expenses that are one-time. The base case spending going into 1999/2000 is about $55 billion. In addition, Harris will have a "slush fund" of about $1.8 billion of unspent restructuring money to be used.

"Harris has pre-spent the fiscal dividend. Since becoming premier, the debt of the province has grown by $22 billion from $88 billion in 1995 to $110 billion today. The 30 per cent personal income tax (PIT) will have cost Ontario about $9.6 billion in foregone revenue. Essentially, Ontarians have financed the tax cut by borrowing money," says Phillips.

Asked from where the money is borrowed, Phillips says, "He just goes to the market (banks) and borrows it. He borrows it all around the world."

Phillips says the Harris government is playing a troubling game by trying to use "restructuring" charges to manipulate the financial statement. The auditor caught them (the government) trying to do this in 1997/98 and forced them to take $1.6 billion out of 1997/98 expenses and allocate them to the appropriate year.

GERRY PHILLIPS

Phillips says the budget is turning into a political document with numbers quite different from those finally reported by the auditor in the financial statement.

"The 'restructuring slush fund' is what they've done for the last three years. They've written off expenses. They've expensed $638 million but actually spent considerably less. They have roughly $4 billion that they have written off but not spent. There's no question that they will and are using it around the province to try and beef up their image."

Asked about the anti-McGuinty (Dalton McGuinty-leader of the Provincial Liberal Party), Phillips says, "One of the challenges we faced was the recognition and awareness of the leader and we don't have money to spend on that. They do and they ended up, I think, helping us out."

Asked about the balanced budget projected, he says, "He can—without a question of a doubt. He can have a balanced budget that they'll present, I think, in April. And they'll cut some taxes.

"Recognize that in 1994/95, the federal government was running a deficit of $37.5 billion and at the end of 97/98 they were actually running at a surplus of $3.5 billion. The rest of the provinces were running at a deficit of $6 billion. They ran a surplus of about $600 million. Revenues, because the economies right across the country have been fairly solid, revenues for all governments have been strong. That's why I don't think they couldn't balance the budget this year in the 1999/00 budget."

As for the commercials in which Mike Harris claims to have cut taxes 66 times, Phillips says you can "cut a little bit here and a little bit there and say that was two times and you can add up to 66, there's no trick to cutting taxes . . ."

Phillips says the government's business practices could result in serious consequences.

"As I always say to my business friends, if this were a business you sure wouldn't be declaring a dividend before you started to make a profit. That's what Harris did. He declared a dividend before he got his fiscal house in order."

Phillips says an election will be early June at the latest.

"I think it may be toward the latter part of May. I'm ready to roll. It's going to be a good campaign."

For more information Gerry Phillips can be reached at (416) 325-3628 or by Internet E-mail, gerryphillipsmpp@ontla.org and is also available at the website, www.ontarioliberal.on.ca.

Liberals' Treasury Watch says balanced budget possible

For 1999/2000 several factors make it possible to present a balanced budget.

- The 30 per cent personal income tax (PIT) cut is now fully implemented and Ontario will realize normal PIT revenue growth.
- Real GDP growth of four per cent in 1998 means a steady revenue flow into 1999.
- Gambling revenue will grow by at least $600 million, largely because of the introduction of 7,000 to 8,000 slot machines. A full year of operation of the new Windsor casino and the launch of smaller casinos in Brantford, Thunder Bay, Sarnia and Sault Ste. Marie will help.
- The federal government's cuts in transfer payments are over and there is an expectation of some possible modest growth.
- Heavy investment in restructuring is over (average $1.4 billion a year for the last three years) and the government has about $1.8 billion of expensed but not spent restructuring funds to spend in 1999/2000.

Liberal MPP Gerry Phillips says Premier Mike Harris has a $4 billion "slush fund."

Medium-Term Fiscal Outlook ($Billions)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00*
Revenue	52.5	54.9	56.0-56.5
Expense	56.5	57.8	55.0-55.5
Deficit	4.0	2.9	
Available "Surplus" for tax cut, program enrichment or debt reduction.			1.0-1.5

*Note carefully that $2 billion of local service expense and revenue is eliminated.

Baha'i' faith offers community blueprint, direction

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

All of the Niagara Region had been recovering from a winter storm that swept across parts of Ontario.

Freezing temperatures kept people indoors for days. Then when the storm cleared and the roads were safe for driving, four youths hopped in a van and drove to Vineland.

That's the hometown of United Nations (UN) member Andrew Ross, who is stationed in Pakistan. While visiting his parents for a few weeks he arranged to meet with young people in several communities from Toronto to Vineland to discuss his job at the UN.

Two high school students, a health care aide, two journalism-print students and a university film student sat around a crackling wood stove fire, drinking grape juice, munching on chips and butter tarts attentively listening to Ross speak.

He challenged them to consider that Canadian communities set a model for a functioning society for countries around the world, especially those without an "authorized" government.

Ross lives in Pakistan and is working with the UN to conduct surveys on Afghanistan's agriculture, livestock and land mine counts. His department makes maps of the country. In August, after the United States waged war against Afghanistan rebels, the UN pulled out and is now stationed in Pakistan.

His job gives him the opportunity to meet and speak with many young people in developing countries.

In a gentle but dignified tone that seemed to draw respect from the group, he explained the "horrific" living conditions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Cambodia. Many refugees flee to Pakistan, only to discover a "misery upon misery" when moving to the underdeveloped Third-World country, he said.

Ross, a Baha'i who has been working with the UN for just over a year, emphasized the non-existence of social agencies in developing countries.

North Americans have become reliant on mail service, paved roads and various other social services giving the appearance of a "community." However, he pointed out that even in Canada and the United States where the elderly, the disabled and the homeless are supported by the government, this is not a true community because it lacks vision.

"The youth need a vision, a direction of where they want to go." His statement breaks through the borders among all countries. Just as the Afghanistan youth, who grow up with guns in their hands, haven't much more to which to aspire than a front-line military position in defending their country, the youth in Toronto also lack hope for the future, he said.

"The issue of the community is becoming a global problem, but it is also creating global awareness." He said funding for many social services is being cut; individuals have to pull their resources together resulting in a clearer picture of an ideal community.

Some of the youth listening were also Baha'is, believers in Baha'u'llah as the next Messenger of God, whose Revelation's purpose is to unite all peoples of the world.

One youth said the Baha'i' faith offers a "blueprint" for communities at a local, national and international level. He was referring to the administrative order within the Baha'i Faith.

There are spiritual assemblies in Niagara Falls, Welland, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Fort Erie and worldwide. Each assembly has the responsibility of organizing events and meetings, to ensure the protection and expansion of the faith, to deepen the individual believers in the Writings of Baha'u'llah and to work towards the education of youth. It was the assembly of Vineland which arranged the gathering with Ross as guest speaker.

Each country also has a National Spiritual Assembly, an elected body of nine individuals which assumes responsibility for national needs.

At the international level is the Universal House of Justice, nine elected members who, as a unit, are given supreme authority over the affairs and guidance of the Baha'is worldwide.

Baha'is regard the directives of these institutions with utmost respect, seeing their guidance as that of a loving parent.

This gives hundreds of young people becoming Baha'is in Pakistan and Cambodia a sense of hope, said Ross, adding it provides them with the means to begin to rebuild their war-torn country.

Baha'i's come from throughout the world to assist with the education of the youth, to rebuild crumbling buildings and to participate in the restructuring of failing social institutions.

"As we grow we can't look towards traditional international institutions for vision," said Ross, emphasizing youth especially need to have a clear vision of what they'd like to see in the community to contribute in whatever way they can to make that vision reality.

Focus on Finance

People employed to find jobs for students

New face at Employment Services

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

The staff of Niagara College's Employment Services is larger by one.

Cheryl Evans, of Niagara Falls, part-time consultant, graduate services, Glendale campus, started her duties on Jan. 18.

She graduated from the Law and Security Administration program at Sheridan College, Oakville, in 1982, where she was also involved in human service studies. She also graduated from the Supported Employment Specialist program at Centennial College, Scarborough, in 1997.

She said she has been employed in career and employment counselling for 15 years.

"I worked with various groups during that time including youths, adults, new immigrants, corrections, as well as people with disabilities."

Evans' office is in room W107, Ext. 4163.

"As a consultant for graduate services, I am going to be providing career placement and preparation assistance for all graduates to assist them in the transition from school to work.

"I will also be involved in co-ordinating on-campus recruiting activities for employers and students. I'll plan and co-ordinate special projects, such as job and career fairs, as well as developing and promoting employment services with employers.

"I'm very excited," Evans said. "I understand that this is a new position at the Glendale campus and I'm looking forward to providing services to the students there and meeting with them."

CHERYL EVANS

Staff available at all campuses

Janet Forfar also performs graduate services at the Glendale campus in room W107, Ext. 4165; at the Welland campus in room SE101, Ext. 7787 and at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls in the Employment Services' office, Ext. 3614. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A recent example of an employment opportunity was a plant tour on Jan. 25 of Can-Eng of Niagara Falls, a manufacturing corporation dealing in heat treating technology. The tour was for Niagara College co-op and graduate students.

From 9 a.m. to noon, students attended from the Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology (Co-op) programs, second and third year.

From 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., students attended from the Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op) and Electrical Engineering Technology — Power Systems (Co-op) programs.

The co-op consultants for Employment Services at the Welland campus are Jean Brodie, Ext. 7743, Monique Morin, Ext. 7790 and Michelle Pugh, Ext. 7797; at the Glendale campus, Christine Drobnich, Ext. 4455, Karen Pacheco, Ext. 4162 and Wayne Sadlak, Ext. 4164; and at the Maid of the Mist campus, Heather Smith, Ext. 3614.

Credit control important life skill to learn

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Do creditors keep calling? Are credit card bills growing out of control, and what about that student loan that just won't go away?

The Credit Counselling of Regional Niagara just might be the answer to all of those debt problems.

College and university students who have student loans, car loans or credit card bills have an idea what it's like to owe thousands of dollars. However, many students in debt don't have any idea how to get out of a debt situation or how to deal with the creditors.

The Credit Counselling of Regional Niagara provides its clients with free financial advice and counselling to help those who find themselves deep in debt. The agency, which is partially funded by the United Way, has been serving the public since 1975 and helps out about 1,200 new clients each year.

The agency deals with many students as well as a range of other people with different income bases.

Michael Mates, executive director of the agency, said the mission statement is to help people get out of debt and, if possible, to avoid a debt situation.

The first step clients take when they come in to speak to a counsellor is to look over their income and come up with a budget system. The second step would be to look at their actual debts and the amount of money owing to their creditors.

Mates said many of the client's debts take up to 70 or 75 per cent of their annual gross income, leaving "very little left" for basic necessities.

The counsellors then figure out what kind of debt management program would be best for the client. The agency has 900 people on the program.

When a client is placed on the debt management program, which can run anywhere from two to four years, the client is required to surrender all credit cards. The agency then notifies the creditors about the client and asks if smaller amounts of payments owing will be accepted.

Mates said almost every time the creditors agree to the conditions in the program.

He said the "most popular service" people come in to the agency for is advice on how to help themselves and to avoid bankruptcy. He said the agency is "the last step before bankruptcy."

"Many people are ignorant of their rights and don't know their options," said Mates.

Asked why this agency is needed and worthwhile in the community, Mates said, "People are very good at getting themselves into debt but are lousy at getting out."

He said Christmas time is "the worst" because people try to forget about the amount of money they are putting out and how they are going to pay off their bills, especially when using credit cards.

The newest thing the agency is working on is an education program for students in Grade 12 to try to educate people before they go off to college or university. The program will outline the consequences of using credit cards and give strategies to avoid serious debt situations.

Credit Counselling of Regional Niagara is at 67 Queen St., St. Catharines. The telephone number is (905) 684-9401.

Part-time employment available for students

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Students looking for jobs are in luck.

This week the Continuing Education department of Niagara College, in conjunction with Jobs Niagara, will be looking for six or seven individuals to fill part-time positions.

The candidates must be students, but they need not be on the Ontario Students' Assistance Plan.

Each of the jobs will be 12 hours a week at $10 an hour. The hours will vary.

The jobs are different including photography lab assistant, clerical assistant, word processor assistant and lab maintenance worker.

People interested in jobs may call Foster Zanutto, director of Continuing Education, at 735-2211 ext. 7523, and he will refer them to the people doing the hiring.

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank the President, the Board of Governors and the staff of Niagara College for the beautiful floral tribute to my late father-in-law. It was truly appreciated.

Bill Taylor
Broadcasting -- Radio, Television and film

Calling All Bands

The Niagara News is looking for bands from around Niagara that are interested in some FREE print publicity!
"Riding the Riff III," will be published March 25, 1999.
The only cost to the band is–time. If your band has recently released a CD, or are about to, you'll want to be in this popular college edition. It's a first come basis! We'll need to conduct an interview and take a photo so don't wait.
NOTE: Due to technical problems bands who responded previously are asked to reply again and we will see that you are interviewed promptly.
The Niagara News publishes 5,000 papers and is produced by the Journalism-Print students of Niagara College, Welland.
We are available at all our campus locations, Jumbo Video's, That's Entertainment, the Seaway Mall and over 100 Avondale Stores throughout Niagara
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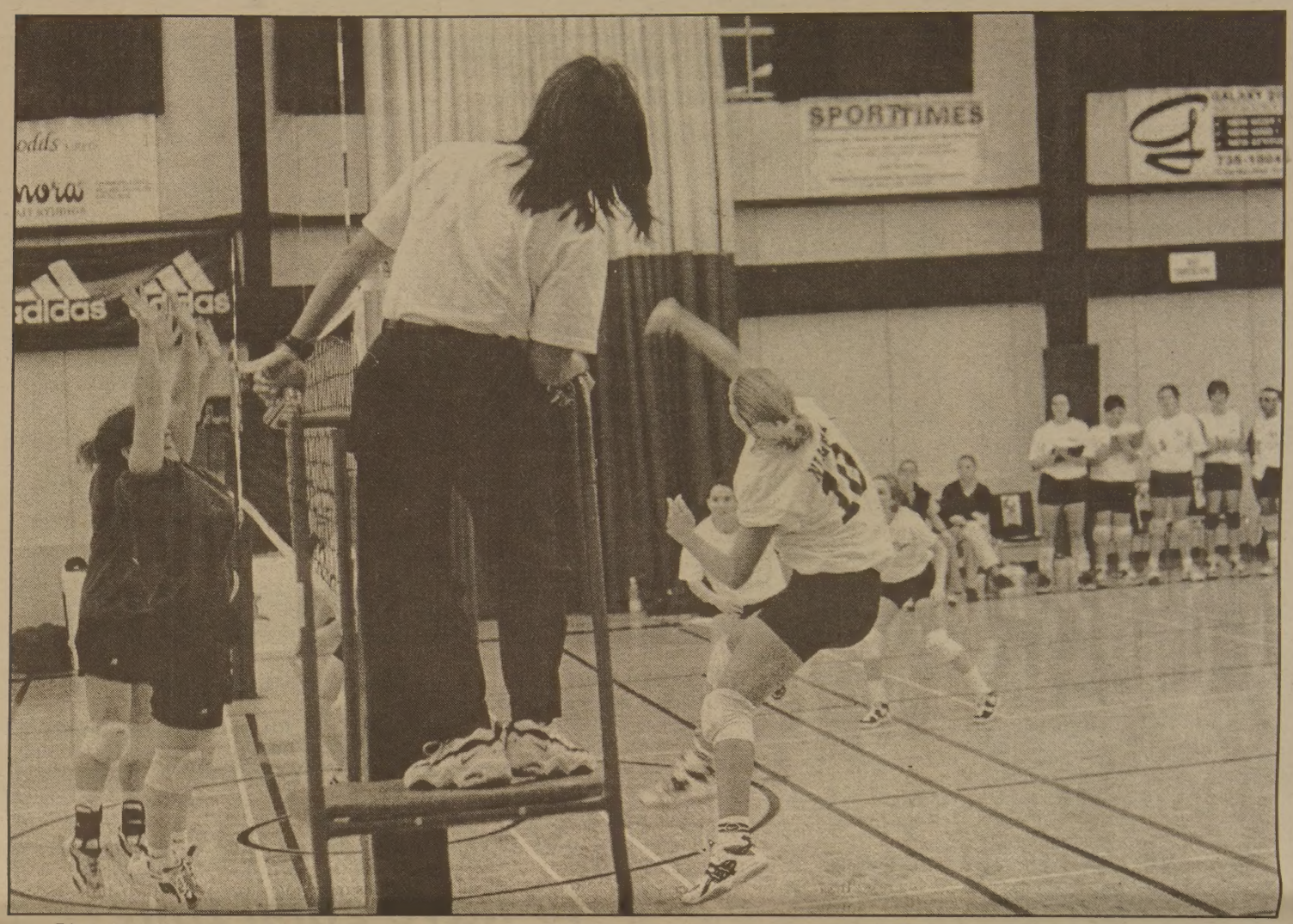
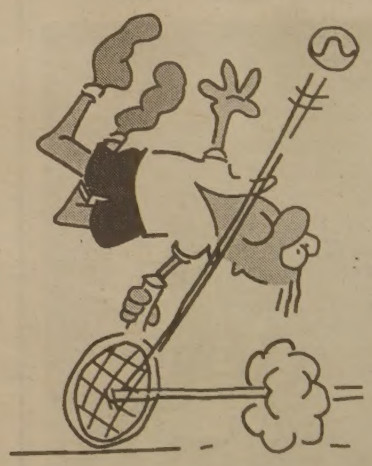


Diane Vanden Hoven, 19, right-side position, goes for a kill during the women's game against Lambton College on Jan. 20.
Photo by Amy Kaal



Men's volleyball team undergoes player changes

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Change takes time.

The Niagara Knight's men's volleyball team has discovered this since the Christmas break.

The men have dropped three players and picked up two more to even things out.

"Talent-wise we're a little further ahead," says head coach Blair Cudmore, of Welland.

The players new to the team are Scott Parsons, returning from last season, and new addition Camron Jacobs.

"They're nice additions," says Kerby Bentley, 22, a Hotel and Resturant Management (Co-op) program student and captain of the team.

The Knights have also added a new defensive system they hope will prove better in the end.

"We're doing a new system and I'm playing a new position so there's a lot of unfamilarities around us," says Bentley.

"As a team they're not a team anymore, "says Cudmore, "so it's a matter of getting them to blend and mesh."

But getting used to something new takes time more than anything to be comfortable with.

Bentley equates it to getting used to new friends or new surroundings and says they have to "gel and hang out" together.

The Knights are getting better, but struggled over the holiday break.

"Over Christmas we did very poorly. We did a tournament and an exhibition game. We got beatup," says Cudmore.

Bentley agreed, but says they have recovered from it and believes the Knights are only as good as their conditioning.

"We basically stopped working out at the end of November," he says. "Then there was Christmas break. We went straight into a tournament where we took a tough loss, a few tough losses, and it was due to our physical condition."

The team, which was ranked second in the nation early in the season, has dropped to 10th, although they will likely remain second in their division. They are hoping the new system will give first place Etobicoke's Humber College a run for their money.

"We play them (Humber) in a couple of weeks. Anything can happen with them if we can get the talent to mesh. We certainly have a lot of talent," says Cudmore.

Bentley says it will be a good game, and it all depends on how finely tuned the team is when it comes to the new system.

"This system, if we can tune it, will create a really good match. It's designed basically for Humber rather than any other general team. This is designed specifically for them," says Bently.

He says the team is actually playing better than before the break.

"We've only practiced the defensive system and me playing out of the power position for one practice," says Bentley.

However, Cudmore says it's "growing pains."

"Till we get over that, things will get a little ugly. It's just a matter of growing pains. Guys getting down on each other, not knowing, not doing their jobs, it will fix itself. It will take some patience," he says.

In the end, both Cudmore and Bentley say the new system is for the better. They think that it will produce better results.

"It seems to work out in the transition better," says Bentley. "It works better than it has before with other philosophies, different theories, different players. So now it looks better for a higher level of play but it needs to be more fine tuned. We're going to a new system with different players and taking it to a higher level."

The men will play against Humber on Friday, Feb. 5, at 8:30 p.m. at the Welland campus. It will be a battle for first place in the division and a chance for the men to use the defensive strategy they have designed to handle Humber.

Sports Supplement

Lucky game fans rewarded with prizes

Show your support to win prizes

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff writer

Home games equal free stuff.

At every home game the Niagara Knights offer fans more than just an exciting match to watch.

During men's and women's volleyball games the Niagara College athletic department has designed a serving contest for fans who are holding lucky tickets.

The same goes for the basketball games played at the college. Their "hot shot" contests draw just as much excitement as the game.

But what about the prizes?

T-shirts, sweaters, umbrellas.

"Everyone who participates gets a prize," says Ray Sarkis, director of varsity athletics.

He says they hope the prizes will draw more people out to the games.

But the best is yet to come.

At the last volleyball and basketball home games of the season the prizes are ones you won't want to miss out on.

Donated to the athletic department were two CD players with a value of $300 each. One will be awarded to the winner of each contest at the games. Also available to win are volleyball and basketball shoes as well as the regular season prizes.

'Everyone who participates gets a prize'

— Ray Sarkis

Admittance to the games gets you the ticket that could win those prizes. The costs for entrance into Niagara Knights' home games are $4 for adults, $2 for students and children under 12 get in free.

So come out and support our varsity athletic teams and get a chance to go home and take something with you.

Prizes given away at home games are Niagara College umbrellas, sweatshirts, T-shirts and more. A $300 CD player will be given away at the final home game.

Photo by Barbara Doddy

Niagara Knights
Upcoming Home Games

Men's Basketball
Feb. 19 vs St. Clair
Feb. 26 vs Fanshawe

Women's Basketball
Jan. 29 vs Seneca
Feb. 19 vs Georgian
Feb. 26 vs Fanshawe

Men's Volleyball
Jan. 30 vs Cambrian
Feb. 5 vs Humber
Feb. 12 vs Georgian

Women's Volleyball
Jan. 30 vs St. Clair

All home games are played at the Niagara College Gymnasium

Admission to all games
$4 for Adults
$2 for Students with ID
Children under 12 -- Free

Flindall misses shot to play in all-star game

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Last year, it was a surprise. This year, it was expected.

Kristin Flindall, one of the four remaining players from last year's women's basketball team, says she was surprised when told she'd be representing Niagara College in last year's Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) all-star game.

"It was good, awesome. I didn't expect it. I was surprised," says Flindall, 19, a second-year student in the General Arts and Science program.

Flindall says, however, she expected to make the all-star game again this year, and if she hadn't , she would have been "disappointed."

Unfortunately, although she was selected to play in the all-star game for the second consecutive year, Flindall was unable to play because of personal reasons. However, this doesn't take away from the fact that she has been playing great basketball this season.

Instead, Flindall says she looks to her sister, Andrea, as a leader.

KRISTIN FLINDALL

"She's my best friend and we know how we act and feel. We know what (each other) is going to do just because we're so close.

"Obviously, we're going to have our little downfalls, but nothing that would change our relationship."

Flindall says she's hoping for better results for the team this year.

The most important team accomplishment, she says, would be to achieve "a better reputation than we had last year."

Flindall's play this season has helped establish that.

'Obviously, we're going to have our little downfalls, but nothing that would change our relationship'

— Kristin Flindall

Flindall was the Knights' leading scorer in five of the team's six OCAA league games to start the season. She's the team's leading season scorer, one of the better rebounders and gets a lot of court time.

However, she says, she doesn't see herself as a team leader.

"I think I could be, but sometimes I can have a bit of an attitude."

Student makes time to have good time

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

This busy student finds the time.

Iazayana Chavez, 21, of Welland, a first-year Police Foundations program student, plays on the volleyball team, goes to school full time and works part time at the college's InfoCentre.

Chavez, who plays right side on the women's volleyball team, says the team "has the potential to go all the way," and quickly adds, "I believe we will go all the way."

This is Chavez's second year on the volleyball team but she has been playing volleyball since Grade 9.

Chavez says she "love volleyball."

The team is 'meshing well' — Iazayana Chavez

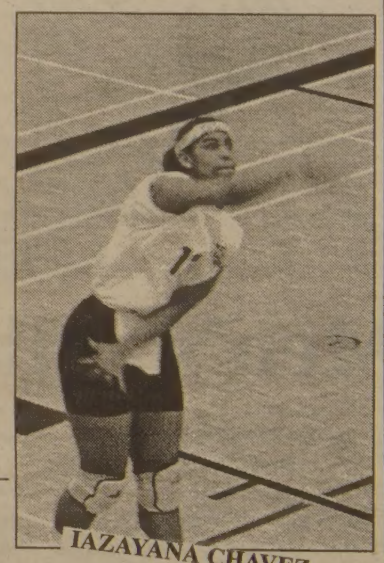
She says the team is "meshing well."

"We first meshed as friends. That's what helped us work as a team.

"It feels good when we're on the court or at practice or we see each other in the hallway, we know we have that one connection. It's volleyball and it feels awesome."

Asked about what the team needs to work on, Chavez says they need to work on defence and they do every practice.

Outside distractions or crowd noise at a game doesn't bother Chavez. "I love it when the gym is loud."



IAZAYANA CHAVEZ

Chavez adds the noise "pumps me up, gets me going. If there is a lot of noise around me I think better (and it) pushes me harder to work harder."

"I love the fans."

Chavez works 12 hours a week at the InfoCentre at the Welland campus and referees at some of the intramural sports at the college.

Asked how she fits everything into her schedule, she says "I make time. I've always been a busy girl."

Sports Supplement

All-star frustrated

All-star Liana Collins goes for a kill during the women's game on Jan. 20.

Photo by Amy Kaal

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

It was their first game back after a long break and it was a disappointment.

The women's volleyball team lost against Lambton College from Sarnia in its first game since the Christmas break.

The Niagara Knights won the second and fourth game and came close in the fifth game but lost the match 15-10, 7-15, 15-7, 12-15 and 17-15.

Liana Collins, power position, led with 17 kills. Michelle Stenton, power position, had 11 kills.

Collins, 21, of Midland, said the loss was "very, very frustrating."

Jesse Knight, assistant coach, said, "It was a good game because we were playing our offence. It was a good game in that area. However, the basics we kind of forgot."

Jen Carpenter, middle position, had seven kills and two stuffed blocks. Diane Van Den Hoven, right-side position, had five kills and one stuffed block.

Asked about crowd noise, about which Lambton's coach was complaining, Collins says, "It happens all the time when we play Lambton. They always complain about the people in the stands. If you can't play a game with people cheering, you shouldn't be on the court.'

"I think they all played strong and with a lot of heart," says Carolyn Schatz, head coach.

Schatz says the team needs to work on defence.

"Defence is what wins the game."

Knight says the outcome of the game was "unfortunate."

Asked about the comments made by Lambton's coach at the end of the game, Schatz says, "It was unsportsmanlike and it's not tolerated in the OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association)."

The Knights women's volleyball team is in second place in the division.

All-Star weekend has been rescheduled to March 13 at the Welland campus.

Collins was selected for the OCAA All-star women's volleyball team. Stenton was selected as an alternate.

Collins says the All-star games will be "interesting, because these are the people I play against that I am going to be now playing with. I hope it goes well."

Knights sweep Mohawk

The Niagara College Knights volleyball teams swept a double-header from the Mohawk Mountaineers on Jan. 26.

The women won in five games by scores of 7-15, 15-8, 15-4, 11-15 and 15-11.

The men completed the sweep by taking three straight, 15-8, 15-11 and 15-11.

New faces on court

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

They're back on the winning track.

The Niagara College men's volleyball team showed a glimmer of their old selves by sweeping Oakville's Sheridan College Bruins in three games on Jan. 23.

The men took the match 15-9, 15-11, and 16-14.

The faces on the court have changed slightly over the Christmas break. The men have dropped three players and picked up two to even out their roster.

The Knights dominated the first two games and, even though the Bruins came back to compete in the third, Niagara pulled off the win.

The third game wasn't easy for the men.

"It was lack of intensity," says Blair Cudmore, of Welland, coach of the men's team.

Cudmore says the men always seem to lack intensity "unless it's a big game."

"I look forward to the big games because it's a lot more fun."

He says unless the Knights have a team that can excute in a big game "it won't be a big game at all."

Kerby Bentley, 22, a Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program student and captain of the team, sees things differently.

"We had way more digs, way more blocks than we typically have."

In a game with the Bruins earlier in the season, the Knights had to play to five games.

"It was an easy three straight this time," says Bentley.

He attributes the win to the rotation of players that filled the court each set.

Bentley says the Knights had a chance to play everyone off the bench.

"Everyone had a chance to play and start. It's a key because you can't go out there and keep banging all the time."

Bentley led the team with 10 kills, but newcomer Camron Jacobs added nine kills and two service aces. The team put forth a total offensive effort with 41 kills, 11 stuffed blocks and four service aces.

The men's next home game is Saturday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. against Cambrian College from Sudbury at the Welland campus.

Knights volleyball players Matt Piccolo (10) and Jeremy Swezdaryk just miss the block during their game against Sheridan on Jan. 23.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Theft over $1,000

Continued from Page 1

"What we have to do is identify all these real costly equipment locations to protect them as best we can," he said, adding they're in the process of doing this.

However, he said, it's going to take a while to figure out the best way of doing this, as they must decide what route to take such as either using alarmed equipment or changing procedures.

As for security, Demers said the primary function is to ensure the safety of staff and students, as well as to protect the college itself from damage (such as fires) and watch over the equipment.

He said the first incident involving the Secord Room had to involve some planning, yet the second theft from Lundy 17 was probably just an "opportune" moment for the perpetrators.

Demers said they have had thefts at the college before and the number of occurrences did seem to be rising over the past three years. However, he said, 1998 did appear to be a reversal of this trend.

If you have any information that may aid police in solving these crimes you can contact Crime Stoppers Niagara at 1-800-222-8477. As in any call to Crime Stoppers, your anonymity is guaranteed.

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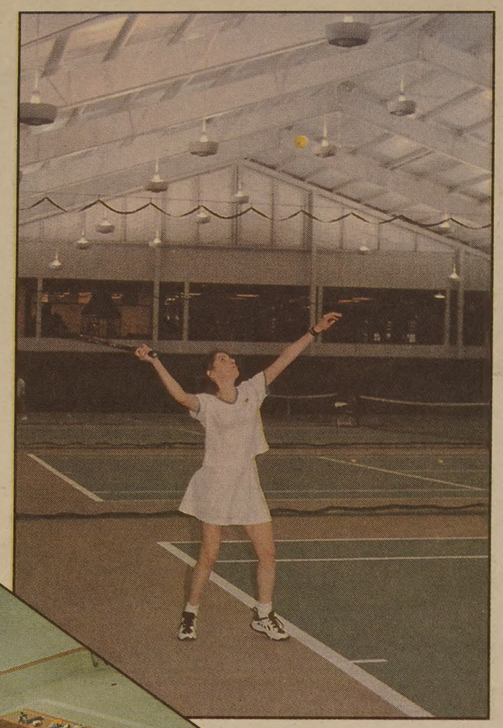
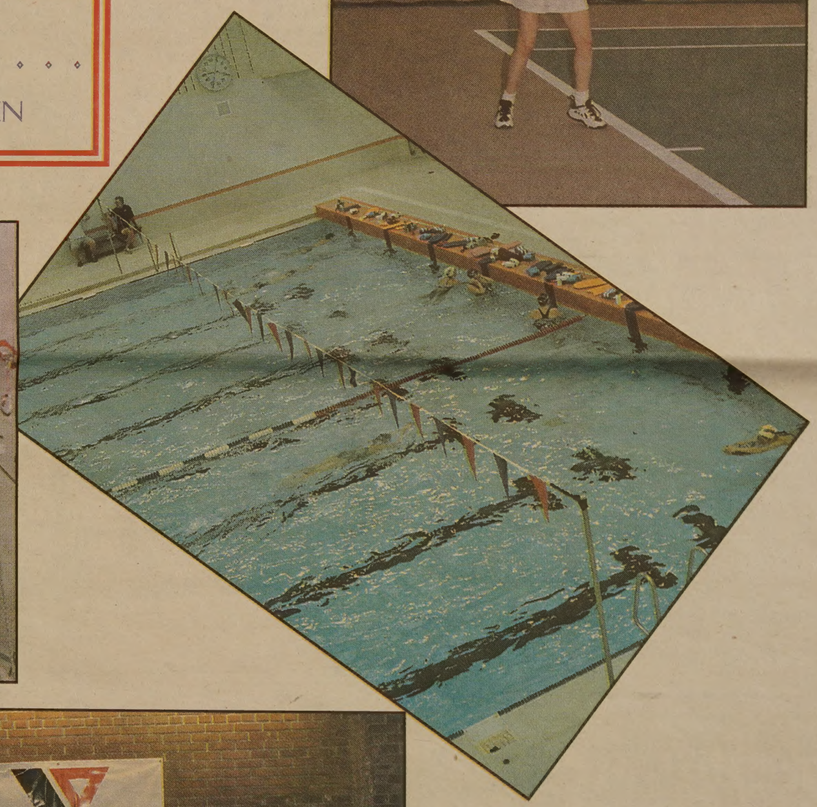
Three Niagara College students work out at the Welland Campus fitness centre (left) and at Stamford Arena in Niagara Falls, pick up hockey games mean Canadian winter fun (below left).

Sandra Morgetano, 27, of Fonthill plays tennis year round on White Oaks Fitness and Racquet Club's courts (right) and Stefan, 17, of Niagara Falls, climbs the walls at Peaks Indoor Rock Climbing Gym (left). Peaks is in St. Catharines (centre).



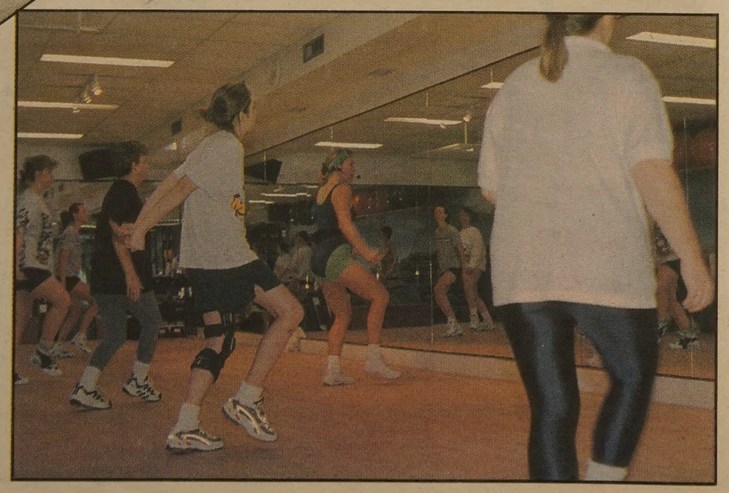
RECREATIONAL POSSIBILITIES . . .

PHOTOS BY AMY KAAL, BARB DODDY & DAVID OLSEN



White Oaks, right across from the Glendale campus, offers fitness classes as well as spa and racquet club facilities (right).

Niagara College students have recreational possibilities all across the region to help get their mind off their scholastic woes.



The Eleanor Misener Aquatic centre at Brock University in St. Catharines (above) offers a cool way for students to blow off some school pressure in the pool, and the Welland YMCA (left) has special memberships for Niagara College students to take advantage of fitness classes, the weight-room and the indoor pool.

Sports Supplement

Close win for Niagara women's volleyball

Knights come back to beat St. Clair Saints in five games

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights women's volleyball team rebounded from their tough loss two nights earlier to win a close, hard-fought contest with Windsor's St. Clair College Saints on Jan. 22.

In a back-and-forth affair, the Knights escaped, winning in five games 9-15, 15-8, 17-15, 12-15, 19-17.

The Knights started every game strong, yet allowed St. Clair back in the match, the opposite of what usually happens.

"Usually we start out slow and then pick it up," said Michelle Stenton, 23, a student in the post-diploma Geographical Information Systems program.

"We just lost the momentum," said Heather Richardson, 18, a first-year Horticultural Technician (Co-op) program student. "We were running different plays. Some plays worked and some plays didn't."

Knights' head coach Carolyn Schatz said it was an important win for the team.

"It was a really good win after Wednesday's loss," she said. "It was really well deserved and we needed the win."

Stenton led the Knights with 15 kills and two service aces. Jen Carpenter had 12 kills while Liana Collins had 11 kills, three blocks and one service ace.

"I was struggling," said Collins, 21, a second-year student in the Recreation and Leisure Services program. "I wanted to win so bad. I wasn't playing my best, but I was just trying to keep everyone else in the game by talking because I knew I wasn't performing to the best of my abilities."

Also making large contributions to the Knights' victory was Kelly Dawson (seven kills, three blocks, one ace) and Izzy Chavez (six kills, three blocks, three aces).

Schatz said she was pleased with the overall performance of the team.

"They performed exceptionally," she said. "They were executing the plays we wanted to run."

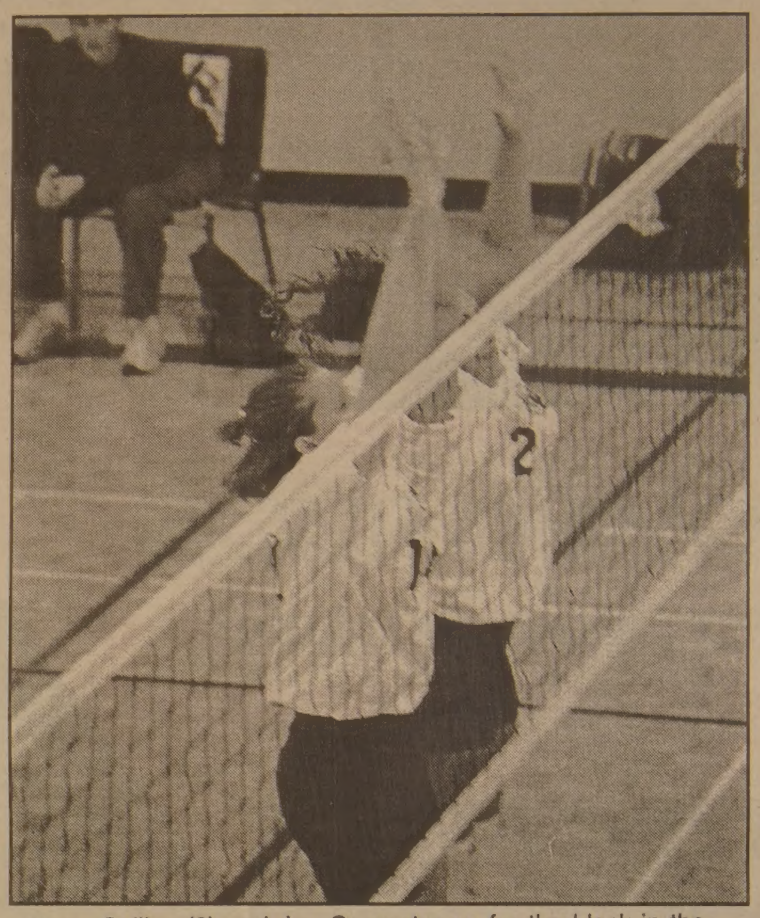
Diane Vanden Hoven, 19, a first-year Social Service Worker program student, who didn't play because of a shoulder injury, gave another reason for the team's success.

"It was because of (my) Lucky Charms," said Vanden Hoven, referring to team's players eating the breakfast cereal on the bench.

Stenton said she was satisfied with the game's result.

"Things have been going well and they came together tonight," said Stenton. "It definitely feels good after the loss the other night. We really showed a lot of heart and hopefully it will continue."

The Knights' next home game will be Tuesday, Feb. 9 when they play against Ancaster's Redeemer College.



Liana Collins (2) and Jen Carpenter go for the block in the Knights' Jan. 22 game against St. Clair.

Photo By Lee Whitehead

Tournament of Hearts

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Since Jan. 26, the Ontario Provincial Scott Tournament of Hearts has been underway in the Niagara Region.

This event is the highest provincial level of play for women's curling, and this year it's being held at the Niagara Falls Curling Club, 5801 Morrison St.

The 10 best teams from across the province have come to Niagara Falls. These teams include rinks skipped by Marilyn Bodogh, Janet Brown, Anne Dunn, Darla Esch, Kim Gellard; Kathie Jackson, Nadine Landon, Colleen Madonia, Anne Merklinger and Kelli Perozak.

All tie breakers will be played Jan. 30 with semifinals at 2:30 p.m., and the final that night. Only one of the teams will proceed to the national level of play being held later this year.

The 10 tournament qualifying teams previously won in various zone and regional playdowns. During the week of the tournament, all club curling activities were cancelled to accommodate the event.

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Allllllllmost!

Heidi VanDerWier (30) just misses out on winning the tip-off at the start of the Knights Jan. 26 game against Mohawk, while teammates Candace Oxford (5) and LeighAnn Breault look on. Niagara won the game 58-55. See story, page 22.

Photo By Lee Whitehead

Sports Supplement

Denver to repeat

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Get ready for John Elway's last hurrah!

The all-pro quarterback leads his Denver Broncos into the National Football League's championship game, Super Bowl XXXIII, for the second straight year.

However, unlike last year when the long-shot underdogs upset the heavily favoured Green Bay Packers, Denver enters this Super Bowl as the favourite to win against this year's Cinderella team, the Atlanta Falcons.

The Falcons have had a great year, led by a strong defence and offensive weapons Jamal Anderson at running back and Chris Chandler at quarterback.

Atlanta's run of luck is about to end.

Denver has too many weapons. On offence, Elway is joined by tight end Shannon Sharpe, wideout Ed McCaffery and last year's Super Bowl Most Valuable Player (MVP), running back Terrell Davis.

On defence, Denver is just as strong, with defensive end Neal Smith, safeties Tyrone Braxton and Steve Atwater and tough-guy linebacker Bill Romanowski.

The Broncos also have the best place-kicker in the NFL with Jason Elam, who tied an NFL record with a 63-yard field goal earlier this season.

The Broncos will be too much for the Atlanta Falcons to handle.

The biggest motivating factor for the Broncos, though, is that this will be Elway's last game.

After 15 great all-star seasons, in which Elway proved he is one of the best quarterbacks in the history of football, he is calling it a career.

Elway wants to leave as a champion. The Broncos' players and coaching staff would like nothing better than to make it happen.

Denver's experience and success in last year's Super Bowl will prepare them and be the difference. They will win this Sunday.

DENVER BY 14.

Dirty-bird Falcons to win

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

Whenever someone mentions a dirty bird, you're likely to start thinking about the king of the scavengers, the dreaded seagull.

Similar to the seagull, the Atlanta Falcons, the National Football League's equivalent of a 'Dirty Bird', will surprise the Denver Broncos with their ferocity.

Like all scavengers, the Falcon's have found key elements of their game from the discards of others. Who would have ever thought they would live to see the day quarterback Chris Chandler would lead a team to the Super Bowl?

With offensive partner, running back Jamal Anderson, Chandler will lead the Falcons to the promised land.

Anderson has a lot in common with Denver back Terrell Davis, in so much that neither were highly regarded prospects and have turned around tough beginnings and put together strong careers.

Anderson brings a return to hard-nosed football. He will run straight through the defensive line of the Broncos like a hot knife through butter.

Nothing is more surprising this year than the fact medical science was able to discover that Reeve's even had a heart, but once they found it, they discovered it to be a huge and wonderful thing, capable of a suprise now and then.

Everyone was surprised when the Falcons won their division. Everyone was shocked when they beat the Vikings in overtime. The Falcons repeatedly run into teams that are unprepared for what they can do.

Season record says Reeves, Anderson and Chandler will be tough combination to beat

All the sporting lines have placed the Falcons as large under-dogs, more than a full touchdown behind Denver.

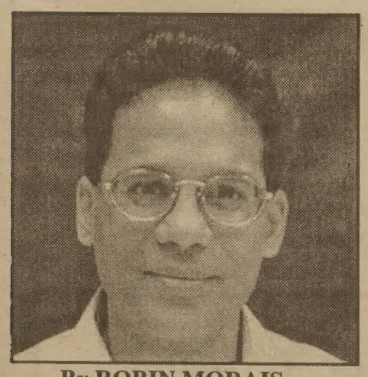
The Falcons have done nothing this year but beat teams, and beat them with a well-executed game plan laid down by Dan "Quadruple by-pass" Reeves.

This is Denver's second Super Bowl in as many years and Elway's last hurrah, again.

I sense a whole lot of overconfidence on the Bronco sideline and a sense of purpose on the Falcons.

Take the points and the win. Pick the Falcons to win.

Tyson packs punch



By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

"Iron" Mike Tyson demonstrated to the boxing world Jan. 16 he hadn't lost his brutal power.

Francois Botha, Tyson's opponent on the night, can attest to that, having been on the receiving end of a ferocious punch to the face at 2:59 in the fifth round of a scheduled 10-round fight.

This was Tyson's comeback fight since his infamous ear biting of world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield in June 1997.

Before a large fight crowd of 14,000 at the lavish MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, Botha, the big South African, collapsed in a heap on the canvas.

He bravely attempted to rise up and beat the count of referee Richard Steele but it was to no avail. When he did stand up, his legs were like Jell-O and he stumbled backwards into the ropes.

Referee Steele and Tyson, 32, ran to his assistance, both of them helping Botha to get back onto his feet.

However, it wasn't all plain sailing for Tyson. He was in danger of losing the bout because of accurate hitting from Botha. The New Yorker was behind on two judges' scorecards and won just one round on the third judge's scorecard.

Botha counter-punched the aggressive Tyson with jabs, straight rights and hooks of his own. Such tactics proved effective against Tyson, who was noticeably slower in the ring.

However, Tyson's will power, physical strength and ring experience proved too much for Botha. And it showed when he knocked out the South African. The shorter, muscled Tyson jabbed his way inside of Botha's defence and unleashed his right hand, putting everything into it.

Ruthless efficiency

The fight was over.

The audience was awestruck with the ruthless efficiency of Tyson, who, when he won the heavyweight title at age 20 in the late 80s, became the youngest heavyweight champion in history.

While not giving a vintage display of boxing, Tyson did issue a warning to Holyfield, Lewis and the rest of the heavyweight division.

He still packs a punch.

NBA won't ever replace Jordon

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The greatest is gone and can't be replaced.

There will never be another Michael Jordan. Nobody in the National Basketball Association (NBA) can step in and take his place.

Greatest spokesman in history of NBA

In his all-star career with the Chicago Bulls, Jordan was the NBA. Without him, the game would never have reached the popularity it achieved.

Jordan was more than the greatest athlete the NBA has ever witnessed — all his awards and accomplishments speak for themselves — but also the greatest ambassador of his game the world of professional sports has seen.

He won five NBA Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards and led his Bulls to six NBA championships in eight years. The two years in that span the Bulls didn't win were the two years Jordan took off after his father's death.

Jordan also retires as the third-leading scorer in NBA history and is first place in the all-time points-per-game average leaders.

More important, Jordan has constantly proven he is the consummate professional and sportsman.

He accepted his role as the NBA's marketing spokesman. His deal with Nike brought popularity to the NBA and the shoe company. Jordan brought the NBA sponsorship from McDonald's and Coke.

As for Jordan's professionalism, never once did he complain about not making enough money. Don't get me wrong, he still made his millions, but he also played for the love of the game. That sentiment is an overused cliché, I know, but it's the truth for Jordan.

During his two-year sabbatical in 1994-95, it was this love that brought him back. He could have stayed in retirement. He had already proven he was the most dominant player ever. He had won numerous championships, MVP awards and many all-star awards.

However, it wasn't enough. Jordan came back to prove he could still dominate the game.

Now that he's leaving for good, the game will suffer. His retirement comes on the heels of a six-month lock-out. At a time the NBA needs Jordan more than ever to repair its tarnished image, he has said he's had enough.

Now the NBA must look to another young superstar to fill Jordan's shoes. Will one emerge? The answer is no.

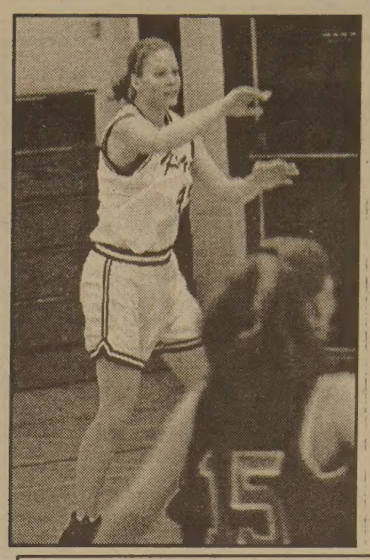
Jordon's classy act will be tough for younger generation of stars to follow

Today's so-called superstars are nothing more than pampered, spoiled, money-hungry children whose morals must be questioned as a result of the number of illegitimate children being born to NBA players.

This is something that, I might point out, has never involved Jordan.

With his retirement and the just-ended lock-out, the NBA is in shambles. It may never recover.

Sports Supplement



Andrea Flindall

#	Position	Ht.	Age	High School/Hometown
45	Guard	5'10"	21	Lakeport/St. Catharines

OCAA Regular Season Statistics

GP	PTS	PPG	FS	PCT	F	FO
8	71	8.9	22/34	64.7	26	3

Third All-star game appearance

Melissa Hallborg

#	Position	Ht.	Age	High School/Hometown
35	Forward	5'10"	19	Notre Dame/Welland

OCAA Regular Season Statistics

GP	PTS	PPG	FS	PCT	F	FO
8	49	6.1	7/14	50.0	25	0

First All-star game appearance

Steve Boyle

#	Position	Ht.	Age	High School/Hometown
45	Forward	6'8"	22	St.Patrick's/Sarnia

OCAA Regular Season Statistics

GP	PTS	PPG	FS	PCT	F	FO
4	56	14.0	8/9	88.9	13	1

First All-star game appearance

All-star games fun experiences

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The stars were out in Oshawa.

On Jan. 23, Oshawa's Durham College played host to the 1999 Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) men's and women's basketball games.

Niagara College was represented by players and coaches.

Jeff MacDonald, coach of the men's team, coached the West Division All-stars, which included Knights forward Steve Boyle.

On the women's side, guard Andrea Flindall and centre Kristin Flindall were selected to play on the West All-stars, coached by Knights' women's coach, Georgie Groat.

However, Kristin Flindall was unable to play and was replaced by Knights' teammate Melissa Hallborg.

The women's game was won by the East All-stars by a score of 87-32.

Groat said she enjoyed the experience.

"It was nice to coach with two other people who were very good calibre coaches," she said. "That was a good learning experience for me."

As for the Knights' representatives, Groat said they played well.

"Andrea is definitely one of the top players in Ontario. Melissa was about the middle of the pack but she did very well."

"It was great. It was an honour," said Hallborg, 19, a first-year student in the Accounting (Co-op) program. "I had to prepare myself in a short amount of time. I learned a lot. I played with people I really enjoyed playing with. It was an honour to play in the game.

"It was fun to play with other people. We play with the same people all year round and to switch it up like that and play with a whole new team, it was fun."

Hallborg said she was happy with the way she played.

"I felt good about it. I played good defence. The offence wasn't really coming to me, but in an all-star game you can't expect to get the ball too much."

Flindall, playing in her third OCAA All-star game, also said playing in the game was an honour.

"We have a really good league with really good players, so it was a big compliment to even get nominated, let alone make the team."

Flindall said she got along with the other players on the team.

"Some of them were second-time and third-time players as well, so I had played with some of them before. Playing with talented people brings out the best parts of your game."

The men's game drew a little more excitement and a closer game, with the West All-stars winning 109-104 in overtime.

"I've coached a lot of all-star games so it wasn't any different really," said MacDonald. "It's nice when you have all good players. It was fun."

Boyle scored eight points in the game and said he was excited to be an all-star.

"It was exciting," he said. "It was fun to play with pure talent. It was a lot quicker. I think I had to be in a little better shape. I went down there and kind of took a few days off first."

MacDonald said he thought Boyle played well during the game.

Boyle said he got along well with other players on the team.

"We're all there to have fun. (There was) no arguing with other players on the team. We just went out there, did what we had to do and went home pretty much."

Flindall, Williamson shine in victory

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Constant substitution was the key to victory.

The Niagara College Knights women's basketball team went into their Jan. 26 game against Hamilton's Mohawk Mountaineers shorthanded, but used this as inspiration to defeat the nationally ranked No. 6 team.

The Knights were missing starters Kristin Flindall and Caryn Thompson, and were only able to dress seven players.

However, the Knights played their best game of the season, winning by a score of 58-55.

"That was the best these guys have played," said Georgie Groat, 29, of St. Catharines. "I know that they can play that well and it's nice to know they stepped up with those two people missing."

"We were short two of our starters today," said Andrea Flindall, 21, a first-year General Arts and Sciences program student. "We came out and we knew we had to work hard."

The Knights started strong, jumping to a 31-17 halftime lead, mainly because of Flindall's foul shooting. She sank 10 of 14 shots from the line in the first half and 11 of 15 overall.

The second half, however, proved to be almost too difficult for the Knights to handle.

They ran into foul trouble with, first, LeighAnn Breault fouling out, followed by Flindall a few minutes later.

However, Melissa Hallborg and Candace Oxford took over the leadership roles and the strong play of Misty Williamson off the bench was also vital.

"I think it's been one of my better games," said Williamson, 19, a first-year Correctional Worker program student. "Our bench stepped up, which was important. We have a wicked team, we just have to get it together."

"Misty played amazing," said Groat, "and as soon as Andrea fouled out, Melissa stepped up as a leader and so did Candace. (She) started telling people where to go and it was great to see."

"Everyone had to pick up their game in order for us to come out on top tonight," said Flindall. "Everyone else (on the team) is able to pick it up when someone fouls out."

Scoring for the Knights were Flindall (15), Williamson (10), Breault (nine), Oxford (nine), Heidi VanDerWier (eight), Hallborg (five) and Kristina Griffin (two).

The Knights' record improves to 4-5. Next action for the Knights will be tonight when they host Toronto's Seneca College.

Knights suffer setback

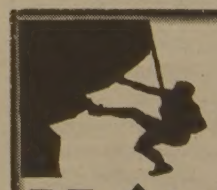
By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team dropped a tough 80-59 loss to the Mohawk Mountaineers of Hamilton's Mohawk College on Jan. 26.

After a poor performance in the first half, the Knights played better in the second, but were unable to come back.

"We thought we played them pretty even in the second half," said Knights' assistant coach Ric Ethier. "Our shot selection was better. We've been through this all year. We get a streak going, and then we kind of sag for some reason. We'll work on that in practice this week."

Scoring for the Knights were Steve Boyle (18 points), Haldan Hutchison (15), Curtis Francis (eight), Aaron Paisley (six), Paul Stewart (four), Randy Clark (three), Dave Klassen (three) and Kyle Handrahan (two).



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Profiles

Graduate saves lives with new business

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

His training makes a difference in your life so someday you might be able to do the same for another's.

Scott Howard, 35, of Smithville, was born and raised in Kitchener, Ont.

He moved to Kingston in his early 20s. There he owned three Domino's Pizza stores.

After about seven years as a pizza businessman, Howard says, he "got tired of them (the stores) and sold them."

He wanted to do something else.

"I thought ambulance (work) . . . would be such a cool thing to do, so I got into that."

He says he started working as a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructor for Kingston General Hospital. He certified and recertified hospital staff.

In 1992 he lived in Welland and enrolled at Niagara College in the one-year Ambulance Emergency Care program, now called the Paramedic program.

When Howard graduated he received the Frank Adamson Award for having a 99 per cent academic average in patient care proficiency

SCOTT HOWARD

— the highest average in college history.

Adamson, a former co-ordinator of the program and now president of Welland General Hospital, presented the award to Howard at graduation in June 1993.

Howard says he came to Niagara "to excel and I did."

After graduation Howard was offered a job part-time training in the fall for the program.

He says he was asked to come back "basically because of my marks."

Howard agreed and has since been involved in the hands-on lab testing.

While attending college, Howard says a friend invited him to become a first aid instructor.

He says when he started working as a paramedic it was "frustrating." He once responded to a call in which a child "with a predisposed medical problem" had died.

"We could not revive him. We tried for about an hour."

Howard says the deceased child's mother came to him while he was doing his paperwork in the hallway of the hospital.

"She had to vent her frustration and anger. We just happened to be the ones to receive it."

Howard says "there's a fine line between getting personally involved and professionally involved.

"It's a job. You can't go past that line. Otherwise you get burnt out and lose your edge."

It was around this time, Howard says, he decided to start "pushing CPR and first aid training a little more."

Five years ago Howard started Vital Link Training Services.

He says in the Niagara region about nine to 11 per cent of the population know CPR.

He says he teaches "a tremendous amount of people" CPR and first aid.

He instructs private individuals, students and employees of corporations which the law requires to have certified and trained personnel.

Howard says "it's a nice feeling" when someone writes or phones to thank him because they were able to respond in a situation requiring the training he had taught them.

He says he thinks first aid and CPR training helps people, and teaches how to prevent injuries.

He says 80 per cent of all injuries and accidents are preventable.

Howard says when he teaches a course, which includes a 284-page textbook, he tells his students "you're not going to memorize this stuff. If you understand it, you retain it. If you memorize it, you forget it in a month."

Howard says he has the students partner and "teach each other."

This reduces the fear of embarrassment because there aren't "30 pairs of eyes watching you."

Howard says it's a laid back and positive environment.

He says he doesn't teach people just "to make his retirement fund" because his full-time job as a Dunnville paramedic with the Ministry of Health makes "the mortgage payments" and pays the bills.

He says he enjoys teaching.

"I do it because of that poor kid . . . that kid that died. That's the reason I started this whole thing."

He says it keeps him "grounded" because working on the ambulance is more advanced.

Howard held a training session Jan. 23 and 24, but will be holding another on Feb. 20 and 21 at the Welland Day's Inn located on Niagara Street. The two-day session costs $80, including the textbook, and runs from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

If you haven't recertified for CPR in the past two years you can come on the Sunday for $60.

If you have questions or would like to learn CPR, first aid or basic life skills or need recertification call Howard at Vital Link Training Services at (905) 732-9880.

Veteran fondly remembers past 30 years at LRC

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

On the upper floor of the library, in a back room labeled vice-president administration, Helen Kovacs sits at a desk surrounded by books, binders and folders.

She greets you with a smile and, although I am a stranger, I feel as if I'm in the company of an old friend. Her warmth is reflected in the atmosphere of her office, highlighted by the cuddly kitten posters hanging on the wall.

As usual her attire is immaculate. Her mastery of colour co-ordination is enough to invoke artist Van Gogh's envy. When her earrings are purple, her entire outfit is purple. When her shoes are green, her whole outfit is green.

With a gentle assurance that we'll be more comfortable in the staff lounge she directs me into a side room.

Like a cat who snuggles into her favorite blanket on her favorite arm chair, the college's 58-year-old library assistant settles into the beige loveseat and asks, "Now, what would you like to know?"

What was Niagara College like in 1969 when she was hired?

"I was employed to work for a gentleman by the name of Paul Burn, who, at that time, was the co-ordinator for audio-visual services."

Her job was mainly to bring in rental films. At that time the college

HELEN KOVACS

had "very, very, very, very limited resources in that area."

Her department soon joined with media services, which handled the teaching side of television, offering videotapes and programs for the college faculty and "outsiders."

When the two departments merged, she was given the option of going to the media department or coming to the library, which "seemed to be the best choice."

The newly developed media services department still had "a bit of static" in its role at the college. However, she was told odds were the under-construction library complex would have a section for films and audio-visual equipment.

The audio-visual (AV) department was "sort of my thing right from the start."

Kovacs joined the library staff. She watched the transfer of roles and equipment of the media and audio-visual services among the college's departments.

In 1972, the Learning Resource Centre combined with the media services' resources and equipment. Finally, films and televisions or video cassette recorders could be accessed from the same department.

"Eventually that whole section (AV) moved down to the front, which now seems to be working out very, very well," Kovacs said. "I'm sure there's a few things that still need to be streamlined but we're constantly trying to do that."

Of all the college changes she's experienced, she says the most significant for her was an aesthetic one.

"I'm happy to see the college, here on the Welland campus, finally making a physical presence, aesthetically, with the grounds being manicured and beautified. It gives me great pleasure to see this because I think it's long overdue."

Kovacs, a mother of three, is familiar with being in the public eye as she interacts with hundreds of students daily, participates as a Clerk of Session and is a representative for the Welland Hungarian Presbyterian Church. She also dances weekly in a traditional Hungarian dancers' club.

How does she cope with stressors and pressures of such a full schedule without losing patience?

She bakes and cooks all day on Saturdays while catching up on 10 to 12 taped hours of her favorite soap opera *Days of our Lives*, a show she has followed since its first broadcast more than 20 years ago.

She escapes into the fantasy world created in Jeffrey Archer's best-selling novels and soars into the galaxy of human personalities by studying people's astrological charts.

Kovacs says she's not one to consult daily with the resident astrologer or to call 1-900 numbers. Rather, studying astrology gives her a "fascinating" window into her own and other's personalities.

"I'm very interested in astrology because it helps me to know what makes people act and be who they are."

She explains that "because we all have different ascendants and different moon signs, we're all different. There's only some basic characteristics that we all have, but the rest of it's different and that's where the individuality comes into it."

She says her moon sign, Cancer, keeps her grounded and her ascending sign, Capricorn, causes her to be off balance.

"Part of me is a total opposite to myself, so what you see on the surface isn't necessarily what's underneath."

The intricacies of Kovacs may be as vast as an ocean, yet the students at Niagara College's Welland campus have come to know her as the well-organized, kind woman standing behind the library's front desk.

"We try to give them (the students) the best service we can," she says.

She's seen many programs come and go, seen many positive and not so positive changes take place and watched a political cycle come full circle about three times.

Niagara College continues to change with the times, adding new programs and replacing outdated ones, always looking into the future to give students the opportunity to prepare for life.

She noticed there was something lacking when her children, now aged 33, 29, and 28, went to school. She feels it is still lacking in many college curriculums.

She says she thinks the older generation haven't lived up to some of their responsibilities in passing on essential life and social skills.

"Once you land a job you also have to retain it."

"Computers are wonderful. They're really great technology but they don't teach you social graces."

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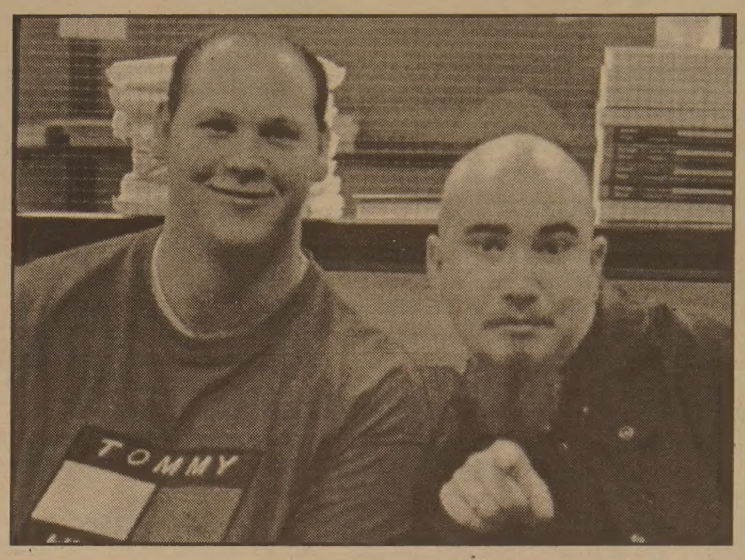
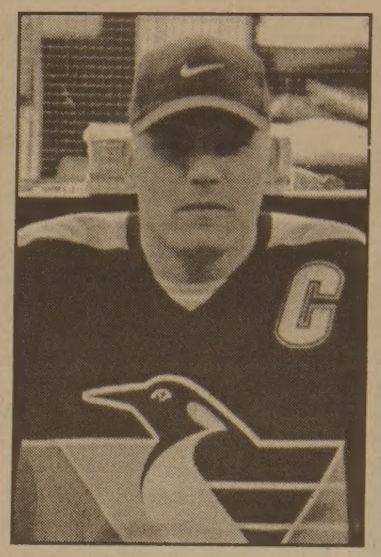
Snowed In

Dealing with cabin fever during the storm



John Heindle, 20, a third-year student, is in the Computer Engineering and Technology program. Heindle said because of the snow storm two weeks ago he "drank," played on the Internet and was busy working to pass the time. He said he's glad to be back at Niagara.

Michael Bissett, 20, a second-year student, is in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. Bissett, of Welland, said he didn't exactly get snowed in because he still went out with his roommates. Bissett said he's glad to be back at school but he enjoyed the extra time off.



Joe Nagy, 20, a first-year student, is in the Computer Engineering and Technology program. As a result of the snow storm, Nagy, of Port Colborne, said when he wasn't shoveling, he spent his time on the Internet. Nagy said he's glad to be back at Niagara because he was bored during the break.

Natalie Martin, 19, a first-year student, is in the Social Worker program. Martin, of Welland, said she was snowed in and played cards, slept, listened to music and watched television to pass the time. She said she's glad to be back at school but she did enjoy the extra time off.

Jen, 19, a first-year student, is in the Social Worker program. For four days, she was snowed in by the storm, said Jen, of Vineland. She spent her time sleeping. Jen said she's glad to be back at Niagara and was bored during the break.

Snow anyone?

A snow remover beside the Simcoe building at the Welland campus makes room for students.
Photo by Amy Kaal

Snowstorm closes college doors

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

Everything was white. Everything was quiet. Niagara College was closed.

It happens very seldom that weather conditions cause a college closing, but it did for two consecutive days on Jan. 14 and 15, as more than 60 centimetres of snow blanketed the Niagara Region.

The last time Niagara was closed because of weather was four years ago, and the reasons were the same: snow and ice, said Hans van der Slagt, the college's vice-president of administrative services.

Niagara students stayed home Jan. 14 and Jan. 15, waiting for an updated weather forecast and trying to shovel out.

"To consider a college closing, we listen to the weather forecast, we confirm with the police to see what the conditions of the roads are and then we base our decision on that," said van der Slagt.

He said if the weather is at the point where it's not safe for students and staff to drive, the administration will choose a closing as the only option.

Van der Slagt said it's either weather causing a closing, or in "very extreme" cases such as Jan. 15, blowing snow and the inability to keep parking lots clear.

"Even if we clean parking lots first thing in the morning, by the end of the day they are full of snow."

He said the closing won't affect the students or add days to the term, as students and teachers will find a way to work this through.

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On Camera

Dream come true from TSN placement

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Getting a foot in the door to a career is almost a dream come true.

Every year, The Sports Network (TSN) of Toronto, offers a Broadcasting Education and Skills Training Program Award (B.E.S.T.), which includes a $750 bursary and a work placement from Jan. 25 to the end of April.

The B.E.S.T. program provides work experience and special needs financial support to students enrolled in officially recognized Canadian broadcast educational programs with the career interest in sports television.

The placement started Jan. 25 and continues to the end of April. The selected students are from the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program at Niagara College.

Mark Blimke, 21, of Pickering, Ont., is a third-year BRTF student majoring in Radio and Television presentation and was chosen for the TSN placement.

Blimke will be writing for the sports desk and working on specialty issues.

"I heard there were 45 applicants and only 12 of us got it," said Blimke.

"It just so happened that the last two years two students from Niagara had got the opportunity."

When Blimke applied, he had to fill out a booklet about what his experience was, what community involvement he had undertaken and why he would be good for the job.

"It was very thorough."

He had to send his school transcripts, resume and a letter from Stu Black, co-ordinator of the BRTF program.

"If they like your application they will call," said Blimke, "and one night out of the blue I got a phone call and they gave me a sports knowledge quiz, which I got perfect on."

This award is open to anyone in third-year broadcasting who is going to have a co-operative work placement.

"You can tell who is going to go because throughout the years you get to know what everyone's interests are, especially by the third year and there are only seven students in this section of the program," said Blimke.

Blimke only has his foot in the door at an entry level position, but said he hopes someday he'll become a sports commentator.

"That's when I will start living my dream," he said.

The Niagara BRTF program offers all the experience needed, including stints behind the camera and in front of the camera, so the students will be ready to start their careers.

Blimke said he wants to be hired at TSN after his placement but if he isn't, he will "work his way from a smaller station up to TSN."

"I've always wanted to get into TSN, I'm a huge sports fan and it's the channel I watch the most."

Mark Blimke, 21, of Pickering, Ont., is one of this year's selected applicants for TSN's B.E.S.T. program award. Blimke started his placement at TSN Jan. 25 and will work there until April.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

Niagara goes live

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

Students in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program will be working hard in the next few weeks to prepare for their news-entertainment program, which will air live on local Cogeco cable.

The program, called Inside Niagara, is run entirely by second-year students in the program, and airs for a half an hour once a week for 10 weeks.

"We have a direct fiber optic cable to Cogeco, which allows us to air live," said Stu Black, co-ordinator for the BRTF program at Niagara College.

During the run of the show, students are divided into two groups, depending on their personal interests.

One group is responsible for the production of the show. This includes the design and construction of the set.

The other group consists of the on-air personalities, people who are "aspiring to be reporters or hosts." Members of this group will rotate through the on-air positions during the run of the show to ensure everyone gets experience in all facets of the show.

The show is aimed to appeal to Niagara College students and residents of the Niagara Region.

"We get some pretty good reactions from the public," said Black, adding the public is encouraged to submit story ideas they may find interesting.

The show airs from Feb. 18 until March 29.

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Opportunity knocks

Paris Roger, left, president of Film Canada, speaks to Niagara College film alumni Andrew Coutts and Phil Pattison about future opportunities offered by his firm after the Grafiti Awards. The awards ceremony was held Dec. 12 at the Glendale campus.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

Students–Looking for a deal? See page 32

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Thin Red Line painful reminder of a bloody past

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

It's rare today to enjoy an evening at the cinemas without the distractions of the local adolescents vying for the title of the most annoying you-know-what.

On this night, however, the only sounds echoing throughout the theatre, besides the storylines, were hearts pounding and Kleenex's being removed from their packages by the dozen.

The Thin Red Line keeps audiences captivated throughout its three tear-jerking hours, reminding viewers of this world's painful and bloody history known as the Second World War.

The Thin Red Line takes viewers into the battle of Guadalcanal through the eyes of a group of men in the Army rifle company called C-for-Charlie, and demonstrates how war affects the minds of young men.

The men soon make essential discoveries about themselves and realize they are nothing more than pawns in the game called war.

The story enters as scared, young Army troops are moved in to replace Marine units. It continues their journey from the surprise of an unopposed landing, through the bloody and exhausting battles that follow, ending with the few survivors' departure home.

In exploring death and fear through these young eyes, the viewer learns of the bonds created under such stress and horror of war.

The story is based on the novel by James Jones who himself served with an Army unit in Guadalcanal during the Second World War.

The story marks the return to the director's chair for Terrence Malick, who directed two previous pictures, *Badlands* and *Days of Heaven*.

For this movie Malick brought in a strong supply of notable actors, such as Sean Penn, who plays First Sergeant Edward Welsh. George Clooney plays Captain Charles Bosche replacing Captain James Staros played by Elias Koteas, the former captain of Charlie Company relieved of duty for his hesitation to send his men to their ultimate deaths.

Nick Nolte plays the power-hungry Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Tall, the battalion commander, whose orders are to take Hill 210, regardless of the casualties.

Woody Harrelson makes a brief appearance as Sergeant Keck. His heroic act of preventing a grenade from taking countless lives, resulted in his own death.

The Thin Red Line is a heart-moving reflection of a little-known part of the Second World War.

The only complaint from this reporter is an ending which leaves the viewer wondering what happens to some key players.

All in all, the story is sure to move you — minus the gore — and I highly recommend the three-hour experience.

Bugs, bugs and even more bugs

Bugs take centre stage in Disney's A Bug's Life

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

Ants and grasshoppers and dunebugs, oh my.

Disney's *A Bug's Life*, is a film about, you guessed it, bugs — but this film is nothing like *Antz*, whose animation and colour were dull.

It's more humourous and will keep you involved and laughing through the whole movie.

A Bug's Life is about a colony of ants threatened by a group of grasshoppers, headed by Hopper (voice of Kevin Spacey, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*).

Flik (voice of David Foley, *News Radio*), an ant who seems to mess up everything, decides he will save the colony but Princess Atta (voice of Julia Louis-Dreyfuss of *Seinfeld*) has no faith in him or his ideas.

He sets off to find help and comes back with performers from a flea circus.

With thoughtful planning, the colony of ants and the flea circus performers out-wit the group of grasshoppers and win their colony back.

Of course, the princess falls in love with Flik.

The animation and colour in this movie are excellent. Some of it looks almost real, such as the leaves falling from the tree in the fall, the ant-sized city and the bird that terrorizes the bugs.

Some characters in the movie are easy to fall in love with because of their funny and witty charm.

The film has done well at the box office, breaking records for opening weekend and making $46.1 million US.

A Bug's Life has done better than Disney's last animated movie, *Toy Story*, which brought in $39.1 million US on opening weekend in 1995 and topped *101 Dalmatians*, which made $45.1 million dollars US in 1996.

Comedy night back in full swing at Welland campus

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Comedy night is back in full swing at Niagara College.

Snow hindered the first performance of the new year on Jan. 13, as Shannon Laverty and Chris Quigly performed short sets to the few dozen people who braved the storm.

Jan. 20 proved more successful, as Glenn Ottaway and David Merry played to a full crowd at After Hours on the Welland campus.

The show was billed as "XXX," but neither comic stooped to using shock humour.

First was Glenn Ottaway, who has appeared on Comedy at Club 54 and the pay per view special Mondo Taboo 2. He played a cellmate in the movie *Strange Brew* and a sailor in last season's finale episode of *Due South*.

Ottaway is a large, long-haired man who looks more like a Hell's Angel than a comedian, but, as he said, "When you meet someone for the first time don't ever judge them by the way they look."

Ottaway won the crowd over immediately with self-deprecating humour about his appearance and kept their attention with a series of props and visuals.

He was able to talk dirty one minute and perform a magic trick the next, all the while keeping the audience captivated.

Next was David Merry, back for his fourth After Hours show.

His credits include writing for Jay Leno and performing on *Comics*, *Open Mike with Mike Bullard*, SCTV, and *An Evening At The Improv*. Merry is a golf pro and has his own show on Global called *Get A Grip On Golf*.

Merry says he works mainly for corporate events now.

"Every once in a while I play the odd comedy club and the odd campus," he says, "but I still enjoy it."

He says for corporate shows he has "gotta work clean. Here you can do whatever you want."

To illustrate his jokes, he used a suitcase full of props, which gradually littered the stage along with some coffee creamer and fake blood, both for illusions too graphic to mention.

"Looks like a bag lady exploded," he said.

Despite criticism, Patch Adams has a message

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Sometimes we need a movie like this.

If you're looking for a comedy in the sea of last-minute Oscar contenders, give *Patch Adams* a shot.

Robin Williams plays Hunter "Patch" Adams, a 1960s medical student who believes in using humour to help alleviate pain despite protests from his professors and fellow students.

It's typical to see Williams playing the anti-establishment protagonist, but Patch is much lighter than those previous roles. It may not be Oscar-worthy, but it is fun to watch. Williams is one of the greatest film clowns ever, so who better?

It isn't all fun and games, though. There are conflicts, tragedies and struggles throughout. Even scenes where Patch entertains the patients have serious tones. One touching part is his visit to the children's ward of the hospital, when he clowns terminally ill kids. Actual cancer patients were used for these scenes, which makes them all the more emotional.

Criticisms come only when deconstructing it.

Though based on a true story — told in Adams's book *"Gesundheit!"* — the liberties taken are endless. Main characters are made up. The biggest plot twist never happened in real life and serves no purpose in the film. It's as though the story was manipulated to make it into movie material. Not necessary.

What makes Patch's story interesting is not his biography, but his philosophy. Unfortunately, this comes across as half-baked. Besides the occasional mention of high academic grades, no effort is made to show he is intelligent. If you can't take the person seriously, you can't take the ideas seriously.

Director Tom Shadyac has a good track record with straight comedies but isn't able to handle the depth of *Patch*. There are scenes that will make you cringe from the combination of sentimentality and a nauseating score. Thankfully, they are few and far between and easily forgivable.

Patch Adams could have been much more than it is, but it doesn't deserve the critical digs it has received. Does it have to be a piece of art? It's an entertaining film, which is what really matters.

Entertainment

Y & R hunk helps raise funds for hospital

Founder of TV Cares

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Calling all soap fans.

Nicholas Newman is in the building.

Josh Morrow, 24, who stars on the *Young and the Restless* on television, was at the Seaway Mall Nov. 12.

Teenage girls lined the centre court anxiously awaiting the arrival of their television heart throb, some waiting as long as four to five hours.

Morrow was at the mall for an auction to help raise money for the Welland County General Hospital.

Screams could be heard throughout the mall even before Morrow appeared on stage.

As Morrow came out dressed casually in black jeans and a green shirt with white stitching, he held a microphone in one hand and a Tim Hortons tea in the other.

Girls hung onto his every word, and one actually asked for his cup when he was finished.

Morrow said he likes doing charity events for two reasons. The first is to raise money for worthy causes, and the other is to "promote his name and music."

He has his own band called Three Deep and the group has a new album called **Yes Yes Yes No No No,** which went on sale Dec. 1.

He said there are "good songs" on it.

Asked if Three Deep would be doing another video, Morrow said they would be shooting Nov. 14 during an all-day production.

Morrow said he's like his television character "a bit. (We're) both easygoing, and like our families."

The show shoots three weeks in advance, said Morrow, adding he can't reveal anything that will be happening in the up-coming shows.

When asked by reporters about whether or not Nick and Sharon, his on-screen wife, would stay together, he said "probably."

Morrow said he'll "be on the show for at least eight months. Then we'll see."

He said he has "no spare time," as most of his weekends are "consumed by doing this (charity events)."

Young fans had hundreds of questions to ask Morrow, but the two everyone wanted to know were whether or not he wore boxers or briefs, and if he was single.

Morrow, who had no trouble answering, lifted up his shirt and showed off his stomach, along with his boxers.

"The 6'0", green-eyed soap star had no problem telling everyone that he didn't have a girlfriend.

Morrow was born in Alaska and now lives in Southern California.

In 1996 he won the Soap Opera Digest award for Outstanding Younger Lead Actor and was nominated for an Emmy Award in 1996 and 1997 for Outstanding Leading Actor.

Morrow plays on celebrity sports teams on behalf of charities, and is a "founding board member of TV Cares, the fund-raising and charity arm of the Academy of Television Arts and Science."

Josh Morrow, better known as Nicholas Newman from the *Young and the Restless*, attended an auction for the Welland Hospital at the Seaway Mall. **Photo by Jackie Field**

NIAGARA KNIGHTS
weekend schedule

Women's basketball vs Seneca
This Friday @ 6:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball vs St. Clair
This Saturday @ 12:30 p.m.

Men's Volleyball vs Cambrian
This Saturday @ 3:30 p.m.

A surprise awaits Aquarians

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) — You'll be so talkative this week others will be lucky if they can get a word in. Since you like to be the centre of attention, an opportunity arises that allows you to be a leader. Take it. Although you speak without thinking, others will value your honesty.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) — You're put to the test at the beginning of the week when a lover asks how you feel towards him or her. Even though it's difficult, it's better to discuss it now rather than later. Your stubbornness kicks in and you'll want to do only what you want. Try to compromise or you'll be left without plans.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) — This week you have an important decision to make, which, if it were up to you, you wouldn't make at all. Your gift of persuasion comes into play when you need a favour from a friend.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) —A simple problem has you worrying yourself sick. This week you spend a lot of time with family and other loved ones who make you feel secure. A secret of yours is about to come out, so be prepared.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) — Leo, beware this week as someone will try to take advantage of your kind heart. Watch your bank account as the money is getting low and the want list is growing. You have a busy week, so keep your priorities in order.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) — You'll be under a lot of stress because of an upcoming test. A friend will want to hear about the problems you've been having. Relax. Everything will work its way out. Trying to please a loved one will tire you out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) — *An outing with a friend will turn* into an adventure. Your health is a concern this week, as you're starting to feel a bit under the weather. Take lots of vitamins and eat lots of chicken noodle soup. A school project that takes up a lot of your time proves to be very rewarding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) — Your energy is soaring and you'll have everyone in the winter mood. Plan a day outdoors with family and friends. A new exercise has you feeling great about yourself. Keep it up. A certain someone, who has an eye on you, will start to drop little hints to show romantic feelings for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) — As a Sagittarian you're always willing to help another person with almost anything. One job *for you is never enough, so you* probably have two or three started at once. Just make sure you finish them all. A lover is trying to pin you down to a serious relationship. If it's what you want go for it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) — Your sense of humour will keep friends laughing for hours at an upcoming party. A surprise visit from a relative has you thinking you should spend more time with your family. An ongoing project will keep you fairly busy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) — Happy Birthday, Aquarius. Keeping your New Year's resolution is hard. Stick with it and you'll be glad you did. Although you like to see everyone around you happy, you should concentrate on your own happiness for the next few weeks. A surprise awaits you at the beginning of the week.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20) — You need to take charge of a situation that has been causing you problems. The sooner you do it, the better you'll feel. Concentrating more on a hobby and less on your latest love interest will have great rewards.

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Between the Covers

Rumours of incest ruins sibling love

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

This romance is almost as tragic as Romeo and Juliet's.

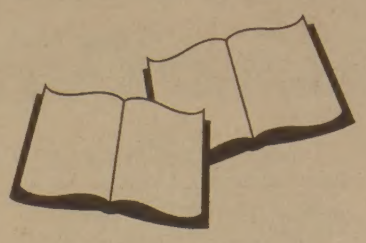
Music in the Night by V.C. Andrews shows what magic there is in love and how one girl will do anything to be with her true love.

Andrews paints a clear picture of the Logan family, their values and life on Cape Cod.

Laura Logan and her twin brother, Cary, face rumours everyday about their close relationship. Both Laura and her brother stay strong even though the odds are against them.

Neither one lets on how much pain they feel from the rumours as they don't want their little sister to find out.

Laura tries to ignore the rumours, but when the new guy, Robert, comes to town she couldn't care less about what



anyone thinks. She falls hopelessly in love with Robert and as one thing leads to another, their happiness is washed away, and their relationship gets complicated.

Laura thought she had lost Robert forever until she heard the music in the night.

Music in the Night leaves you breathless and sad.

The book allows you to escape from reality and become part of the Logan family.

I felt as if I were really there, taking in everything that happened. I laughed when Laura laughed and cried when she cried.

The book is a must read.

It can be found in most bookstores and libraries.

This is Andrews' fourth novel in the Logan series. It was published by Pocket Books in March.

World threatened by unseen enemies

Reader placed in world of viruses

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Picture this. You wake up one morning thinking you have a cold.

You drag yourself out of bed anyway and go to school.

As the day progresses you begin to feel increasingly worse. By lunch you notice blood blisters on the inside of your mouth and eyelids. Looking into a mirror you see your eyes have a flaming golden ring around the pupil.

Suddenly, without warning, you start having uncontrollable spasms.

You begin to chew on your lips in what is known as autocannibalism. Soon you are gnawing uncontrollably, shredding your fingers in the process.

Your body seizes, your spine arches backwards into the shape of a "C" and you die as your brain is reduced to a mass of jelly.

Richard Preston, author of the bestselling book *The Hot Zone*, once again targets our innermost fears about a world threatened by an enemy we can't see.

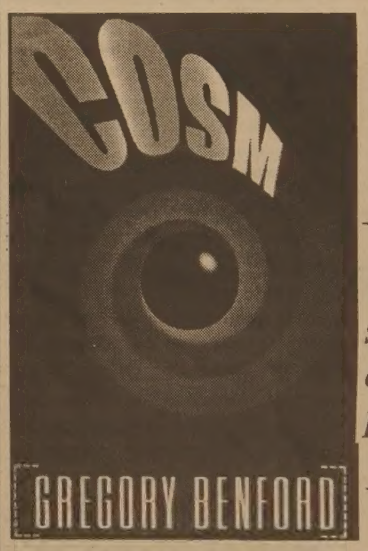
The Cobra Event tells an intriguing story, for now just fiction, yet some say the likelihood of such an appalling event happening is closer to reality than we think.

Preston has mixed fact and fiction in *The Cobra Event* to carry the reader into the world of biological warfare. Every scientific fact is conceivably possible. Preston has done his research on this one.

From the beginning Preston places the reader within the lethal world of viruses. His graphic depictions of the effects on the human body sound as if they come from an eyewitness account and not the imagination of a writer.

The Cobra Event is published by Ballantine Books, New York. At 432 pages this book is an excellent read for those with an interest in science or medical fiction thrillers.

Book belongs in black hole



By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Cosm is a boring novel that belongs deep in a black hole.

Author Gregory Benford, a scientist/novelist, spends more time spinning out scientific jargon than he does trying to keep the reader interested.

The story is centered on a female scientist, Alicia Butterworth, who accidentally invents a universe that can fit in a room.

'Benford should have spent more time developing the main plot'

The idea is interesting and the characters could be too. Unfortunately, Benford doesn't spend enough time developing them, so when he tries to give them some life it's laughable at best.

The worst of it is it's a pathetic attempt at a love story between Alicia and a fellow scientist, Max Jalon. While Jalon proves to be the most interesting character in the story, his occasional interesting wit isn't enough to save the story.

In fairness to Benford, this novel probably would be enjoyed by people who know the technical terms. However, another problem is the style it's written in. It's simply boring.

Little subplots forgotten shortly after they occur are a waste of time and take away from the only thing on the reader's mind: what will happen to the cosm?

Benford should have spent more time developing the main plot, making interesting characters and, more important, believable ones.

Friendships questioned

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Maeve Binchy's *Circle of Friends* questions the true meaning of the word "friendship."

Binchy's book is set in the

tiny town of Knockglen, Ireland. It tells a story of Benny and her best friend, Eve. The two go to university in Dublin and find out who are their real friends.

Benny is an unsure young woman. At university she meets Jack Foley, who makes her feel secure about everything, or does he? Benny realizes there are friends you can trust and some you can't.

Eve, a timid girl, cherishes her friendship with Benny. She comes to realize people to whom you're related aren't necessarily family.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Binchy received a history degree from the University College of Dublin. She writes for the Irish Times. Among her novels are *Echoes, Firefly Summer, The Glass Lake* and *The Copper Beech.*

Binchy's book explores various relationships with friends, boyfriends, parents and relatives. Binchy's writing is descriptive, has a lot of dialogue and makes you feel as if you were sitting in the circle of friends.

History of Niagara comes alive in book of poetry

Victorian poems tell passionate tales

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

The history of Niagara, especially its wars, and its beautiful scenery, come alive again in Kevin McFabe's book *The Poetry of Old Niagara.*

McFabe collected 75 Victorian poems and 100 illustrations from the latter part of the 19th century and published them at his own publishing company, Blarney Stone Books, in St. Catharines. All of the poems and illustrations are from the Niagara region extending from Stoney Creek to Niagara-on-the-Lake and Thorold.

Some of the poems are passionate tales of war's victories and losses or of heroic generals, such as Sir Isaac Brock. Others are patriotic poems

KEVIN McFABE

describing the beauty of the Niagara region. There are poems about the old Welland Canal, Niagara Falls, Balls Falls and many other scenic places.

William Kirby, Archibald Lampman, Ethlwyn Wetherald and Pauline Johnson are some of the well-known poets included in the book.

The poems have a patriotic theme expressing a love for nature and respect for those who fought in war battles. I thought the poems were interesting and educational. The poems were educational because they helped me to understand how people felt and thought during that timeframe.

I would recommend this book to people who are interested in local history.

The 160-page book is available at most stores in the Niagara region, such as the Brock University Book Store, for $16.95.

Rave Reviews

Sensitive people beware

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Gangsta Boo's CD **Enquiring Minds** isn't for sensitive people. Its vulgar language and themes, with creepy background music, make it something I want to throw out.

Murder, crimes, sex, drugs and partying are the focus.

Gangsta Boo states she's proud she's a woman who can murder, fight and be a criminal in the song *Wanna Go To War*. She says, though, she'll sleep with a man even if he's cheating on her or has a wife, in the song *I'll Be The Other Women*.

Her recording company's press release says she shows "respect" for her man. I'd call that disrespect for herself. I don't think it represents a strong woman. I think if she wouldn't put up with anyone threatening or challenging her, she shouldn't put up with men treating her badly in relationships either.

The other love song, *Only You*, speaks of adultery. Rapper T. Rock's main lines are these: "For only you, I would kill your man. For only you, I would live a life of crime." If someone said that to me, I'd be scared. It's not a compliment.

In *Life in the Metro,* Gangsta Boo says the only options are to "kill or be killed." She says murdering and committing crimes are the only ways to survive in the "metro." Gangsta Boo says education is pointless, and "life in the metro is so cold."

The CD vividly depicts life in the ghetto. It's about a lifestyle most Canadians don't personally know. Consider this a blessing.

The instrumental music is mostly keyboards and drums. It has a creepy sound which gave me an eerie feeling.

Enquiring Minds features other Three 6 Mafia rappers such as Fatal, Crunchy Black, T. Rock, The Kaze and The Prophet Posse.

The rap varies from fast to slow, offering a diversity. Sometimes it's difficult to understand the lyrics but at other times they're clear and understandable.

I'm planning to dispose of this CD. I can't stand the negativity and vulgarity. I don't agree with promoting the idea there's no way out for people in some dire situations, no alternatives and no point to being educated.

Greatest songs recorded during summer tour

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

What a year for Pearl Jam: a world tour, their first music video in years, a home video and now their first official live recording, **Live on Two Legs.**

Pearl Jam, without a doubt the best band this decade has produced, has finally released a collection of some of their greatest songs live, recorded during this summer's tour.

Live on Two Legs covers old favorites from all the Pearl Jam albums, and adding new tunes and even a cover of Neil Young's *F. . . Up*. It is nice to see a little Canadian content.

Eddie Vedder is nothing short of astounding, belting out tunes such as *Off He Goes* and *Nothingman* to perfection, erasing any doubt you may have about Vedder's amazing vocal chords. The man is simply the best singer around, and most singers would be lucky to hold his microphone.

Guitarist Mike McCready transforms into a Jimi Hendrix/Stevie Ray Vaughn hybrid, ripping through solos most guitarists would need and finesse, it's utterly mind bend- three hands for on tracks *Black* and *Corduroy*. He plays with such speed ing someone can play like that.

Possibly the coolest track on the album is a remarkable version of the band's hit *Daughter.* Traditionally, this is the song in which the band breaks into a jam session and plays some favorite songs. This time they pay homage to Neil Young, as Vedder sings the lyrics to *Keep on Rocking in the Free World. White Male America* is a great medley of three excellent tunes.

This album is a perfect account of the band's storied career. ***Live on Two Legs i***s nearly perfect. The only thing missing is the rare yet amazing **Yellowledbetter.**

Live on Two Legs is the best thing I've heard all year.

Out of 10 — 9 1/2.

Whigs' 1965 rocks in 1999

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

For the Afghan Whigs,1965 was a good year in 1999.

The Afghan Whigs returned in fine form with the release of their newest selection of guitar rock songs on the CD **1965**.

After releasing **Black Love** in1996, the Afghan Whigs make up for lost time with one of the better CDs of last year.

1965 starts with the blistering song *Somethin' Hot* and flows into one of the best Afghan Whigs' songs of all time, *Crazy*.

The Afghan Whigs — consisting of Greg Dulli on vocals, guitar and piano, Rick McCollum on guitar and theremin, John Culley on bass and keyboards and Michael Horrigan on drums — have created another fine signature Afghan Whigs CD.

Never straying too far with the band's sound, **1965** is more consistent than past releases such as the brilliant but overlooked 1993 CD **Gentlemen**.

Recorded in New Orleans during Mardis Gras, **1965** has a very live, energetic, in-your-face, rock 'n' roll feel to it.

Every song is a standout and features Dulli's amazing, no-holds-barred songwriting abilities.

On the song *66*, Dulli creates some of the greatest lines with, "You walked in. Just like smoke. With a little come on, come on, come on in your walk. Well, come on. I've been waitin'."

Dulli continues his great lines on *Neglekted*. "I knew a girl, extraordinary. Suggested something, unsanitary."

The Afghan Whigs continually release great albums and with **1965** they do just that. It's refreshing to see a band stick to what they do best, and not try to alter their working formula to suit the newest wave of cool.

Anyone interested in getting a CD that is pound for pound amazing all the way through, need look no further than **1965** by The Afghan Whigs. I give it an 8.5 out of 10.

Repetitive funk

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Grooverider's **Mysteries of Funk** is one of the most boring CDs ever produced.

It starts off with interesting techno sounds, recreating something reminiscent of a Star Trek distress call. So, good, a CD filled with interesting sounds and funky beats. Sorry, not so.

The CD is so repetitive it's hard to know when one song ends and the next begins.

Some of the songs have good beats, such as *Where's Jack the Ripper?* and *On the Double*. It is too bad they are long and the rhythm doesn't change throughout the entire song, aside from a different drum beat here and there.

Cybernetic Jazz is a longer version of *Starbase 23. Imagination (Parts 1 & 2)* sounds like *Imagination (Part 3). Rainbows of Colour* sounds like *Rainbows of Colour (Heaven's Breath)*. Getting the picture yet?

The CD should be shorter, but that wouldn't change every song sounding identical. **Mysteries of Funk** receives one out of 10.

Sorry, no Barry Manilow songs here

Songs' titles not fit to publish in newspapers

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

I will tell you now. I have never been, nor will I ever be, a fan of gangsta rap. I don't understand the world these rappers come from. Actually, I thought Compton was the name of an accounting firm.

However, anyone who is into this brand of rap will enjoy the last CD from the late Eazy-E. The CD, called **It's On**, is a compilation of unreleased material from the so-called "Godfather of gangsta rap."

It's On is full of slow tempo beats and incredibly filthy language. Listening to nails scraping a chalkboard is more enjoyable than this CD. Most of the lyrics would make Redd Foxx blush.

Eazy-E explains the life of a gangsta in Southern California as a rough life full of dope, booze, guns and girls. You'll need to watch a Disney film to cheer yourself up afterwards.

He disowns his former colleague, Dr. Dre, by defacing a picture of him on the inside cover and in the lyrics of every song on the CD. The CD also features Ice Cube on the song *Boyz in tha Hood(G-mix)*.

Listening to nails scraping a chalkboard is more enjoyable than this CD. Most of the lyrics would make Redd Foxx blush.

Most of the song titles are not fit to print in this newspaper because of the explicit nature of the lyrics.

I will tell you now. I have never been, nor will I ever be a fan of gangsta rap.

You won't find any Barry Manilow cover songs on this CD, sorry.

I don't consider myself a gangsta by any means. The worst thing I've ever done is . . . well . . . listen to this CD, honest.

If you're into this kind of music, great, enjoy. I'm using this CD as a coaster for my "Have A Nice Day" coffee cup and it's working quite well. Thanks, Eazy-E.

Rave Reviews

Return of the Crowes

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

The Black Crowes are back and in better musical spirits.

After slipping downhill into a heap of drugs and departures, it took an album like **By Your Side** to bring them up to the rock beat once again.

I found myself tapping my toes and humming to the music as Chris Robinson carried his voice to new heights. It's a powerful performance by Rich Robinson on guitar. The rest of the band members helped blend the blues-sounding rock 'n' roll tunes.

Of the 11 songs on the album, *Diamond Ring* was my favorite. It has a slower pace, but still keeps that rock edge to it. The five-second intro guitar solo draws you into wanting to hear more and you won't be disappointed. The beat and lyrics just

wash you into the song as Chris sings of buying a diamond ring for a loved one.

As for the rest of the songs, numbers such as *Kickin' My Heart Around* and *Only a Fool* are fast and strong and you never lose sight of what they're trying to say in the lyrics.

It's worth checking out, especially if you have enjoyed The Black Crowes in the past.

Singer enters new singing realm

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

California is shaking, but it's not an earthquake. It's the return of **Korn.**

After two stellar releases, **Korn** returns with its most explosive album since its self-titled debut. *Follow the Leader* shows just how much the band has matured over the past two years.

The music is tight. Singer Jonathan Davis enters a new vocal realm, exchanging screaming for some intense melodic singing.

Korn continues to open albums with a huge bang as *Follow the* Leader opens with an eerie It's On and Freak on a Leash, with straight-

on pounding riffs putting your ears to the test.

The first single, *Got the Life,* is proof of how much **Korn** has grown. *It* sounds like nothing they've done before. They mix hip-hop with funk, but still keep it heavy and keep it, well, **Korn.**

Hip-hop is all over *Follow the Leader*. Rapper Ice Cube shares the mike duties on *Children of the Korn*, and Fred Durst, of hip-hop metal band Limp Bizkit, exchanges hilarious insults with Davis on *All in the Family*. Tre Hardson, of Pharcyde fame, also lays down some hip-hop groove on the track Cameltosis. Cheech Marin makes an appearance, as Korn covers an old Cheech and Chong song *Earache my Eye,* with Cheech rocking the mike.

This album is truly brilliant. It's **Korn** at its best. I give it nine out of 10.

The Niagara News is accepting Indie Bands for it's music supplement to be printed March 25, 1999. If your band is local, has a recently released CD and would like some FREE publicity call 735-2211 ext. 7748. First come basis!

Double CD from R. Kelly

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

R. Kelly's new double CD has plenty of songs to keep you moving.

Kelly's CD from Jive Records, simply named **R**, has 29 songs with his previous hit from the Space Jam soundtrack *I Believe I Can Fly*.

A lot of the songs speak of experience in relationships. The first single from the album is *Half On A Baby*. My favourite track is *When A Woman's Fed Up*. It tells a story of man who has screwed up and the woman who won't take him back.

All the songs on the CD were produced, written and arranged by R. Kelly.

The album also features other talents such as Keith Murray, Cam'ron, Noreaga, Jay-Z, Vegas Cats, Suzanne LeMignot, Foxy Brown, Crucial Conflict, Celine Dion and Nas.

The track that surprised me the most was the duet *I'm Your Angel* with Celine Dion. It seems like an odd match but the song is incredible.

If you liked Kelly's previous self-titled album, you'll enjoy this one. The songs have a lot of appeal.

R. Kelly fans will not be disappointed. I wasn't. I give it a nine out of 10.

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Eye On Niagara

Courses docking in Port Colborne

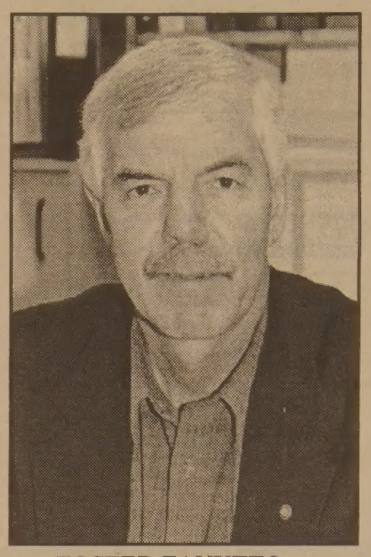
Continuing Education classes to be offered at Roselawn Centre

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College students can expect to see academic courses being offered in Port Colborne.

On Jan. 21 Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Charles Salmon, chief executive officer of the Roselawn Complex, at 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne, signed an agreement that will see Continuing Education courses being offered at the complex.

Foster Zanutto, director of Continuing Education, said the department had tried offering courses in various Port Colborne church basements about five or six years ago, but they weren't successful.



FOSTER ZANUTTO

He explained there was an overlap in courses offered there and at the Welland campus. What would have been an entire class enrolment at the Welland campus was split into two separate classes at two locations.

Zanutto said the difference this time is the college will offer "unique courses tailored to Port Colborne."

It's undecided what courses will be offered there, but Zanutto envisions courses in computers, the performing arts, hospitality and sailing but he added that nothing is confirmed yet.

He also said no date has been set for when classes will begin, but "we're probably going to be looking at summer and fall activity," and there will be both "daytime and evening classes available."

He said this agreement "provides a venue for our staff to sit down with their staff" to decide about course offerings.

"The intent was to have a presence in the community," said Zanutto, adding he anticipates the agreement will be "mutually beneficial" for the college and the complex.

Taste of Italy in Niagara

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre presented the third evening in its Showcase of Chefs series on Jan. 17.

The evening began in the atrium of the centre with a wine tasting from Reif Wineries, of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Reif featured a number of their wines including their famous ice wines.

Mark Hand, executive chef for the centre, said many of the wineries participating in the showcases are happy to come and present their wines because it is a chance for them to increase their market and gain new customers.

Guests made their way to the Kerrio Room for the four-course dinner prepared by the featured chef of the evening, Claudio Mollica, of Casa Mia, in Niagara Falls. Chef Mollica prepared a traditional Northern Italian meal using many of the fresh ingredients found in the Niagara Region.

The evening's dinner began with veal tonato, an appetizer of veal with a tuna mousse, followed by a gorgonzola gnocchi.

The main entree of the evening was a braised lamb shank followed by a frozen raspberry zabaglione for dessert.

Hand said all of the evening's entrees were indicative of the northern region of Italy.

The showcases allow students in the Culinary Arts and Hotel and Restaurant Management programs to gain experience in their fields by volunteering. The students help prepare and serve food and beverages and learn from the professionals in the industry. Funds raised by the showcases benefit the students in programs at the centre.

Politics

Conservative MPP Froese asks if Liberals have crystal ball

Continued from Page 12

we would balance the budget in our first mandate by the year 2000 or 2001 and we're on the right track to do that."

As to when an election will be called, Froese says he'd be the premier if he knew that. He says there is always speculation around the three-year mark.

Froese says the commercials about the Conservatives being aggressive and promoting Ontario are "fantastic." He says that's what "we need to do to sell Ontario to the world."

Froese says on a personal level he's glad the health care system is going to a one governance model in the Niagara Region.

Froese says once we have one governance for the whole Niagara Region on their hospital care, "you'll see the dollars being finally focused on patient care and away from hospitals fighting each other."

Froese says too many dollars are being spent on keeping buildings (hospitals) open and on paying administration and not focusing those dollars on patient care.

"Once that gets settled, what'll happen is we won't have any hospitals fighting any more on the administration level. Everybody will be focused on patient care and that's exactly where we need to be at."

"That's what it's all about. It's about patient care."

Froese suggests if the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines were to be an example of a one governance model, it might not have had to come to closure.

"What I'm really disappointed in (is) that there wasn't a pro-active proposal with respect to merging the two hospitals. I'm really disappointed that there wasn't."

He says the palliative care at the Hotel Dieu is second to none and some type of model on that basis could still be used.

Planned enrolment decrease

Continued from Page 1

September," says Vaughan, adding the college planned to have a three per cent decrease because the Nursing program has been phased out.

Last year, there were only third-year nursing students left.

Vaughan says this is the first year there are no nursing students.

Another planned decrease was a reduction of intake for several programs. Vaughan says the Law and Security Administration program had the biggest reduction. "We've reduced our intake in the fall, and we also didn't have a January Start in Law and Security."

Vaughan says the college has been growing steadily, "averaging about four per cent per year, over the last five years."

He says the reason for the planned decrease is to improve the placement rate, as well as the retention rate.

Vaughan says another reason for a decrease in numbers is the "non-attenders." Non-attenders are students who register in the fall and don't attend their classes.

"We don't find that out until the end of the term." In the past, the students weren't necessarily removing them from the records until after the 10th day of class.

By removing those students from the records before the 10th day of class, there is a decrease in enrolment. It also prevents those students from getting funds from the Ontario Student Assistance Program for a second term for which they don't plan to attend.

Vaughan says enrolment is down about 200 students. About 150 of those are as a result of the planned decrease and the other 50 are the students who don't attend their classes.

"All our technology programs are very strong and have shown steady increases, as well as the hospitality and tourism," says Vaughan, "and the other that's very strong is the Business Administration program, which has the highest enrolment."

The Business Administration program takes in about 260 students in the fall, and another 60 in January.

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Eye On Niagara

OSAP loans given out in alphabetical order

New distribution proves quicker

By JOE ROWLING
Staff Writer

The lineups are shorter and the money is moving quicker.

Since the introduction of the new Financial Aid Ontario Student Assistance Plan Distribution at Niagara College, some students say they have not had to wait as long.

The system began last fall. It involves students receiving their loans by alphabetical order at specific times.

Elaine Grandmaison, 56, is the college's associate registrar of Admissions and Financial Aid. She came up with the idea last summer after years of long lineups.

"Prior to the fall of '98 we had three operators to process the loans," she said. "We had to find a place where we could access more computers and more people. Now that we have the open access labs, I work with information systems to ensure that we could book them for two days at the Welland campus, two days at Glendale (in Niagara-on-the-Lake) and one at the Maid of the Mist Centre (in Niagara Falls)."

Grandmaison says the new system meant hiring 20 people who were all trained for the process. She says she used listings from the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training to find out how many people there are in each letter of the alphabet to break them up into specific time slots.

"Within the first two days of classes at all campus locations we distributed about 1,600 loan documents. In my opinion I don't think any student waited longer than 15 minutes if they came at their time slot. It has been very successful."

'In my opinion I don't think any student waited longer than 15 minutes if they came at their time slot.'
—Elaine Grandmaison

Grandmaison says the only problems have been students not showing up at their correct time slots as well as not bringing proper identification, such as a Social Insurance card.

College officials are not the only ones who like the new system. Students say that the new system is better.

"It was a lot easier," says Crystal Wilson, 20, an Office Administration — Executive (Co-op) program student. "I walked in and walked out. There was no trouble with the bank."

Shannon Mastaler, 18, is a first-year Journalism-Print program student. She says the first term was slow but this term was quicker.

"Last term I waited an hour at the bank but this term was quick."

The system will continue as planned next year.

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Eye On Niagara

Children need activities to occupy them during spare time

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Extracurricular activities are important for children.

Mike Ward, 22, of Fort Erie, says they "improve a child's social skills."

Ward coaches basketball and gymnastics and teaches cooking at the YMCA in the border town. He says extracurricular activities "help them grow as individuals."

Katheryn Wilson, director of student services at Westlane High School in Niagara Falls, says, "Children involved in extracurricular activities are more well rounded," adding, such activities are "crucial to the development of the child.

"It's very exciting to see a kid be a star in the band, but getting only 60s in classes."

Children don't have to be involved in activities provided by the school, she says. Volunteer work or a part-time job can also help. "Kids need to be busy."

A district school board of Niagara elementary school principal says he doesn't see a big difference in the social skills of children involved in extracurricular activities as opposed to those who aren't.

"Those who don't take part can also be sociable," he says. "A child that is socially maladjusted still might sign up for an extracurricular activity."

He says he is a supporter of extracurricular activities because "children can learn a lot about life, commitment and responsibility."

More than information available to students at InfoCentre

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

The InfoCentre at Niagara College is for everybody.

Patty Faragalli works at the centre part time, 24 hours a week. She previously worked at Niagara from 1977 to 1995 in the Marketing department doing desktop publishing and promotional pieces.

She says her work was "really interesting, but I was ready for a change."

She left the college, going to work as a general manager at TriMedia Marketing in Welland for three years.

After her three years there she decided she was ready for part-time work and "what better place than Niagara College?"

Faragalli says she was "a good fit" for the InfoCentre.

The centre, open since August, is part of the Enrolment and Registration Services department. Faragalli says, "We're a department still growing."

Iazayana Chavez (right), student ambassador, looks on as Patty Faragalli works on the computer.
Photo by Amy Kaal

"We want to make it (that) any info any student, staff or visitor needs we should be able to supply them that information or direct them to someone who can provide them with it."

The majority of queries at the centre deal with where to find teachers and where their offices are, says Faragalli. Also asked a lot is what time the bus comes. Faragalli says they keep a Welland Transit and the Brock University-Welland-Glendale campus bus schedule on hand.

The oddest request received was from a man looking for a needle and thread to sew the button back on his shirt.

The centre has six student ambassadors who work up to 12 hours a week.

The college receives government incentives to help pay the students.

The centre help desk is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Their extension is 7559.

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Women's Issues

Women's Club works towards equality

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

A woman from Niagara reminded nine local Professional Women's Club members that bringing home the bacon and cooking it too requires "juggling," but has benefits.

Candice Paris, executive director of Niagara Rehab, a St. Catharines organization focused on the rehabilitation of physical ailments, began her career during the 1960s. With hard work, determination and a mentor's support she rose to her current position.

Deciding to go into nursing in the early 1960s, Paris embarked on her career path.

Through an unwavering drive to succeed, together with a few well-deserved promotions and some community volunteer service, she achieved corporate status in a male-dominated business world.

Paris watched women struggle for equality in the '60s, ushered in the '70s with the blissful attitude of "we can do it all" and shuddered as the disappointing reality that "no, we can't" introduced the '80s.

Paris said she soon realized that women who sacrifice home, husband and children to receive corporate recognition are still victims of a traditionally male workplace.

Harassment, discrimination and tradition constrain the potential contributions towards change that women within a male-orientated environment could offer.

The middle-aged and elderly women in the audience nodded and chuckled at Paris's jokes about the entrapment women found themselves in during the middle half of this century.

She recounted her time at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto where "they trained us like pets."

At this time women were given the freedom to have a career; they could choose to be a teacher or a nurse. Grateful for any opportunity, few chose to challenge these limitations.

Yet, tradition and ancient ways of regarding women trapped them in cages, preventing them from receiving deserved respect. Employers fired pregnant women without severance pay, maternity leave or any guarantee of getting their job back.

Although some progress has been made since those "dark ages," any woman willing to venture into the unknown world of business still must contend with a husband, children and housework. A recent survey showed that although a few enlightened men have relieved working women of their housewife duties, those women still act as the primary caregiver and "the majority of the housework and routine work is still done by women."

Considering all this, Paris implements regulations conducive to the progress of Niagara Rehab. Her flexible approach towards her employees, who are 90 per cent female, considers their needs. She gives them bereavement leaves, up to 10 educational days, and the choice to stay home when their children are sick.

Employees celebrate pregnancies. Women receive a year-long maternity leave and are guaranteed their jobs when they return, with hours they are comfortable with. She says the policy is "we don't have secrets, so memos and committee minutes are open to everyone." The atmosphere is "friendly" and the staff " happy and stable."

Every other month, "What's Happening" meetings promote open communication between staff, employers and patients by providing a chance to voice opinions, concerns or complaints.

Provincial cuts that forced the hospital to keep its same-sized staff yet increase its patient quota from 2,000 to 8,000, drove this determined leader to become more creative in her management.

"I would like to be a part of the solution," said Paris.

The Professional and Business Women's Club is established nationally and internationally as well as having its own divisions regionally.

Welland's division meets every third Thursday of the month for a dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a guest speaker at 7:15 p.m. at the Rose City Best Western. Since September they've had speakers such as Marylou Davidson, a female police constable, and Diane Sauder, chairman of Welland Hydro.

"The club is not a male-bashing club," said Mary Tulumello, 43, of Sudbury. She said they just get together and try to support each other.

"It's nice to feel there are other people out there working towards our equality," said Carol Bender, president of the Women's Club.

Investment deal preys on women

By MELINDA JOHNSTON
Staff Writer

It was a chance of a life-time — $40,000 in return for a $5,000 investment.

Oh no, it's not illegal, Sally Jones was told. Just don't put the funds in the bank or start spending your money frivolously. It's just a loophole.

Jones is referring to Women Helping Women.

"It was exciting, but scary," says Jones, a 43-year-old divorced mother of two.

Jones had been invited to join a pyramid scheme.

It involves investing your money and getting two other people to join. They get two other people to join in an expanding domino pattern. The unique aspect is the exclusive membership to women.

"It was advised that we not tell our husbands or boyfriends," says Jones.

"We were told of money being delivered to women's houses hidden in pies or under cakes. One woman, who was asking for cigarettes from the other women, received her money rolled in cigarette packages," says Jones.

Jones approached me and asked if I wanted to join. I was slightly suspicious. It sounded too good.

"The Queen (Sally Smith and the next in line for a payoff) is the one that got me involved," says Jones.

This particular group meets every Monday night and covers towns from Fort Erie to Burlington.

The meeting began with Smith introducing herself and asking if everyone knew why she was attending. Each person introduced herself and stated what she did for a living. The more I heard, the more legitimate it sounded. The age range was from 25 to 65. There were business owners, secretaries, librarians and saleswomen.

The one-hour meeting discussed other women who had received their money and where the next meeting would be.

"If you can't come up with the $5,000," says Smith, "you can get a sponsor. She will loan you the money and, once you receive yours, you pay her back including interest."

Another option is to invest $2,000 and get a $15,000 return.

"I'm expecting my money any day," says Smith. "It usually takes two to six weeks. The longest wait has been six months. It all depends on how many people you bring in."

"Come hell or high water, I'm going to get that money," says Jones.

After losing a lot of sleep and making plans about how I would spend the money and calling two of my close friends, an article in *Chatelaine* caught my eye. It was about Women Helping Women and it provided me with more pertinent information.

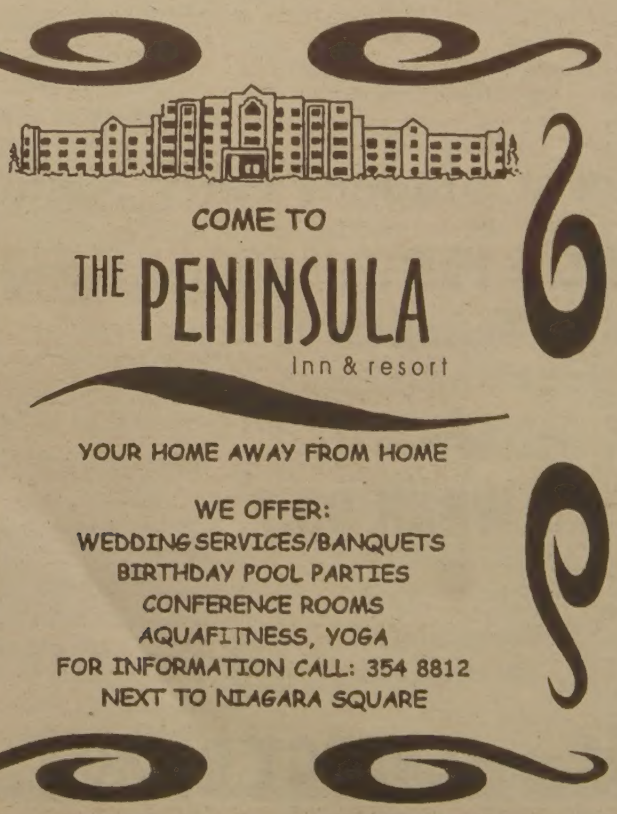
Smith neglected to say this group has been around for five years and its members could face a large monetary fine and spend time in jail for fraud.

A police crack-down in Markham, Ont., resulted in two women being charged. The police are now doing a sweep across Southern Ontario.

The *only people* this ever pays off for are those joining the group in the beginning.

Smith has yet to receive her money. "This is reflected in the once lovely stock in her store that is now filled with garbage," says Jones. "Her prices have sky-rocketed and she is overcharging for everything."

The worst aspects of this scheme are that it turns women into con artists and it preys on women who can't afford to lose money.



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Eye On Niagara

Empty those pockets, fees are rising

Fee increase is here after three-year waiting period

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Be prepared to dig a little deeper into those wallets for non-tuition fees next year.

Niagara College's board of governors has approved a 15.3 per cent increase in non-tuition fees.

The Fee Protocol Committee is the governing body who made the decision to increase the fees, paid at same time as your tuition.

The committee makes the decision on what fees to charge and how much to charge, yet they aren't approved until presented to the board.

Jamie Ebsary, president of the Welland campus' Student Administrative Council (SAC) and a first-year General Arts and Science program student, said the increase is needed to bring Niagara College into line with the rest of Ontario's community colleges.

The Student Technology Enhancement Committee (STEC) fee sits at $35 a term while the average for most Ontario colleges is about $55, said Ebsary.

"There is an increase but it's an increase in places that needed an increase," said Ebsary.

She explained there hasn't been an increase in three years.

The fees that will increase include the SAC fee, from $66 to $72. This is largely due to the establishment of three separate SAC governments. Before one central council was located at the Welland campus. There are now three presidents.

The graduation fee will increase from $24 to $28. Martha Casson, college vice-president enterprise and service development, explained this is because graduation ceremonies will now be held at the Glendale campus instead of Centennial High School in Welland.

She said the move means they'll have to pay for the ceremonies whereas previously facilities were free.

Covered now will be the cost of chair rentals and staffing, as well as having five ceremonies instead of four, said Casson.

The orientation fee will increase from $6.25 to $7.50. Ebsary said this is because they're planning to have a bigger event at one location instead of moving it around. This will involve bussing students in from other campuses. She added they're also hoping to have big-name bands play at the event.

The largest increase is in the information technology fund, or STEC fund, which will go from $35 to $60. These funds will be put back into the college to improve the information technology-related services to the students.

Ebsary gave the example of laptop computers in the library being available to students through a sign-out procedure.

Casson said the large STEC fee increase will generate about $250,000 more revenue for the technology enhancement fund.

Casson said the 15.3 per cent increase is, "due almost exclusively to the increase in the STEC fee."

The idea of having a procedure in place, such as the Fee Protocol Committee, was started by the Ministry of Education and Training in 1994 as an initiative of the provincial government, which was the New Democratic Party at the time. Since then the Progressive Conservative government has taken over and began to enforce the policy.

Funds put back into college to improve services to students.

Previously, there were no rules or regulations in place, said Casson.

The process in which a college sets its non-tuition fees is open to the individual college. However, it must, in some way, include the input of the student body, said Casson.

Niagara College adopted its policy of having a Fee Protocol Committee, she said, adding, in Niagara's case, the committee is made up of three students (the three SAC presidents) and two college administrators, herself and Al Vaughan, registrar.

There are three SAC presidents:

- Jamie Ebsary, Welland campus
- Jennifer McGregor, Glendale campus
- Rachel Solomons, Maid of the Mist Centre.

Casson said the committee is considered a standing committee, yet as the SAC presidents change from year to year, so then does the representation.

As for decision making, Casson said the committee makes the decision and the board approves it.

Other fees included in the non-tuition fees are the college service fee, $72.50, and the alumni fee, $12.50.

These are based on the number of contact hours a student has with faculty. The present rate is 88 cents per hour. After the increase it will be $1.01 per hour.

Part-time students pay a fee as well. This too will change to reflect the number of contact hours. "We want equity between the day students and the evening students," said Casson.

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New beginning for former campus benefits community

The college is selling property after months of negotiations

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

A new biotechnology firm is relocating and making the former Wellandvale campus of Niagara College in St. Catharines its new headquarters.

Biolyse Pharma, a Quebec-based company, purchased the property after months of negotiations with the college, says Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College.

"The deal was finalized after receiving approval from the Ministry of Education as well as receiving approval from our board of directors. We presented the offer to our ad hoc property committee of the board of governors, who approved it, and it was then sent on to Minister Dave Johnson. He approved the college pursuing the sale and I believe all the legal instruments have been completed to transfer the property to Biolyse."

The college chose to sell the property to the firm after many offers were reviewed.

"We had many inquiries about the property," said Patterson. "Royal LePage's commercial end of real estate gave the property wide distribution across the country. We received in excess up to 25 to 30 inquiries, but it was narrowed down and Biolyse seemed to have the best offer out of two or three organizations."

He said Biolyse has many plans to renovate the building, one of two reasons the deal will benefit the community.

Biolyse Pharma is relocating and calling the former Wellandvale campus, in St. Catharines, home

"I would say that when we issued the sale we were wanting to be good corporate citizens and ensure that use of the campus would benefit the community. Biolyse has two things going for it; we were impressed with the fact that it was introducing an important economic market niche in biotechnology, a market that we thought the region needed more of and, secondly, there are some long term plans to enhance the look of the building. They've got some wonderful plans."

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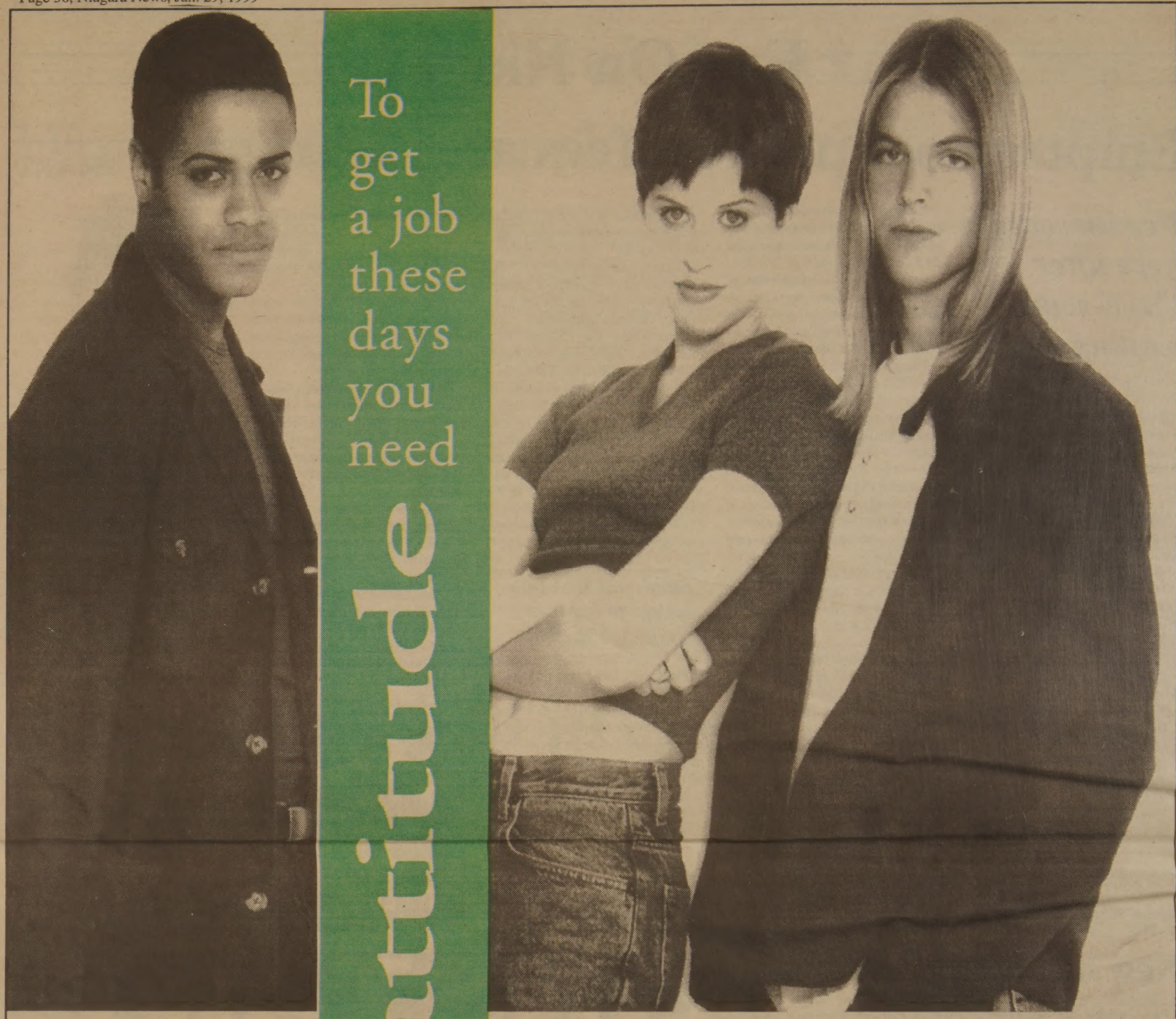

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